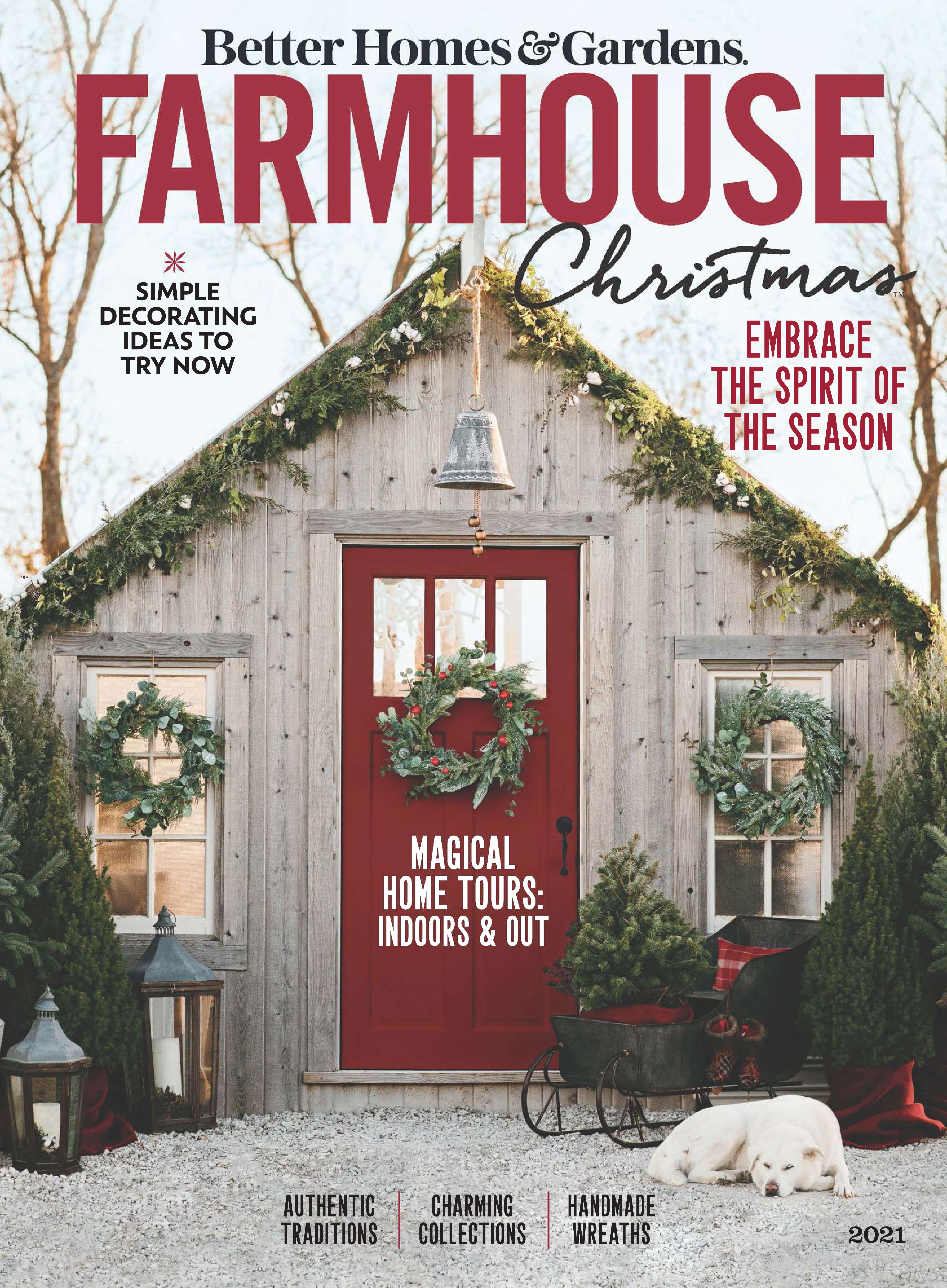

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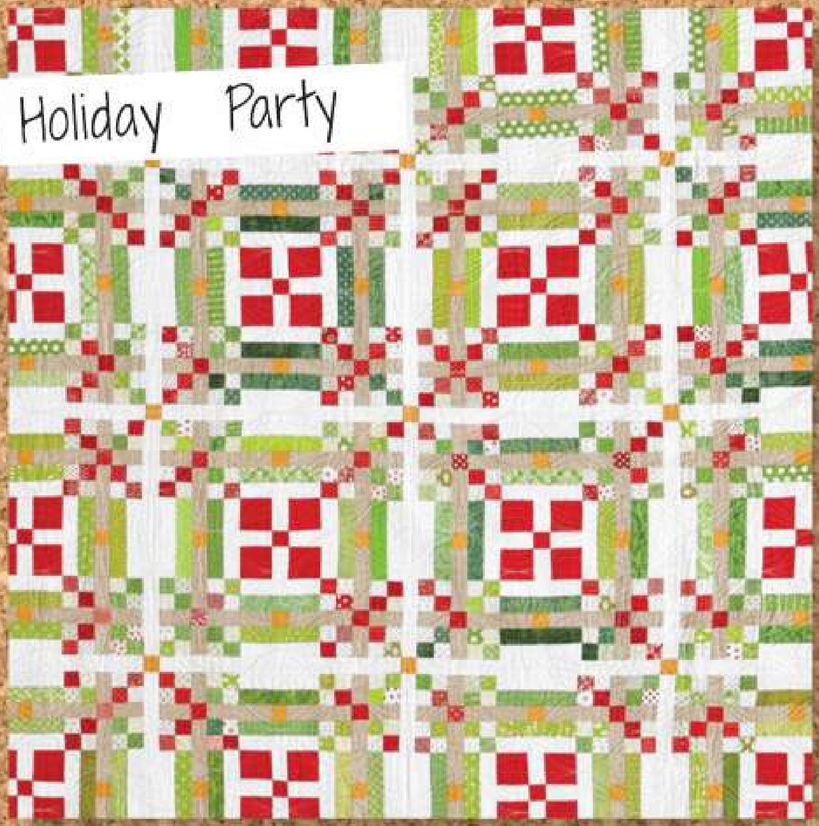
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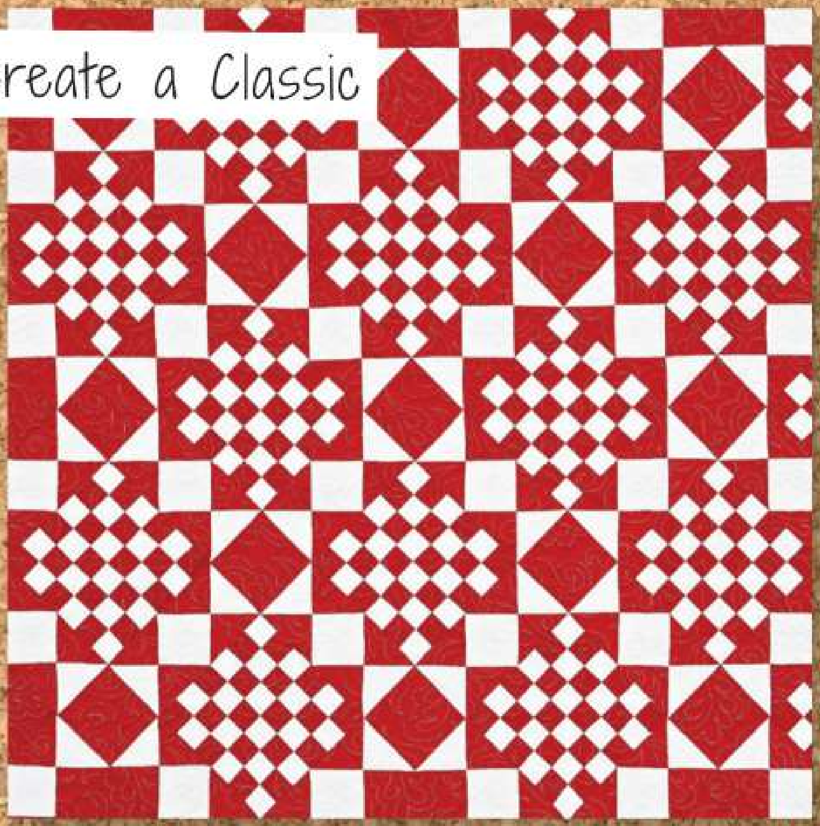
Create a Classic

MERRY CHRISTMAS
VEGETABLES
VEGETABLES

FARMHOUSE CHRISTMAS

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FARMHOUSE *Christmas*™

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Merry Christmas

Authentic farmhouse style lends itself to simple delights as we celebrate this festive time of the year. On these pages you'll find homes, crafts, and ideas that will inspire the heartwarming comfort we all crave. The owners of our featured homes deck their halls with fresh greens cut from their own backyards, vintage collections beautifully displayed, and a variety of personal touches. No matter the farmhouse decorating approach, each embodies simple Christmas joy. We hope you'll find cheer in our handmade gift wrap ideas (*page 70*), dried orange slice garlands (*page 20*), and gifts to give from the garden (*page 54*)—all projects easy to achieve. Turn the page to find simple inspiration for every room in your farmhouse and embrace the spirit of the season!

Nicole Teut

THIS PHOTO Annette and Jared Thurmon revived a tradition from Jared's family with their 2½-year-old daughter, Ava: They head to the tree farm to cut down small evergreens to place in buckets on the front porch. **OPPOSITE** Garland and a collection of antique bells form the foundation of Annette's natural-leaning decor; she switches the accents year to year to get different looks. "I won't do the exact same thing twice," she says.

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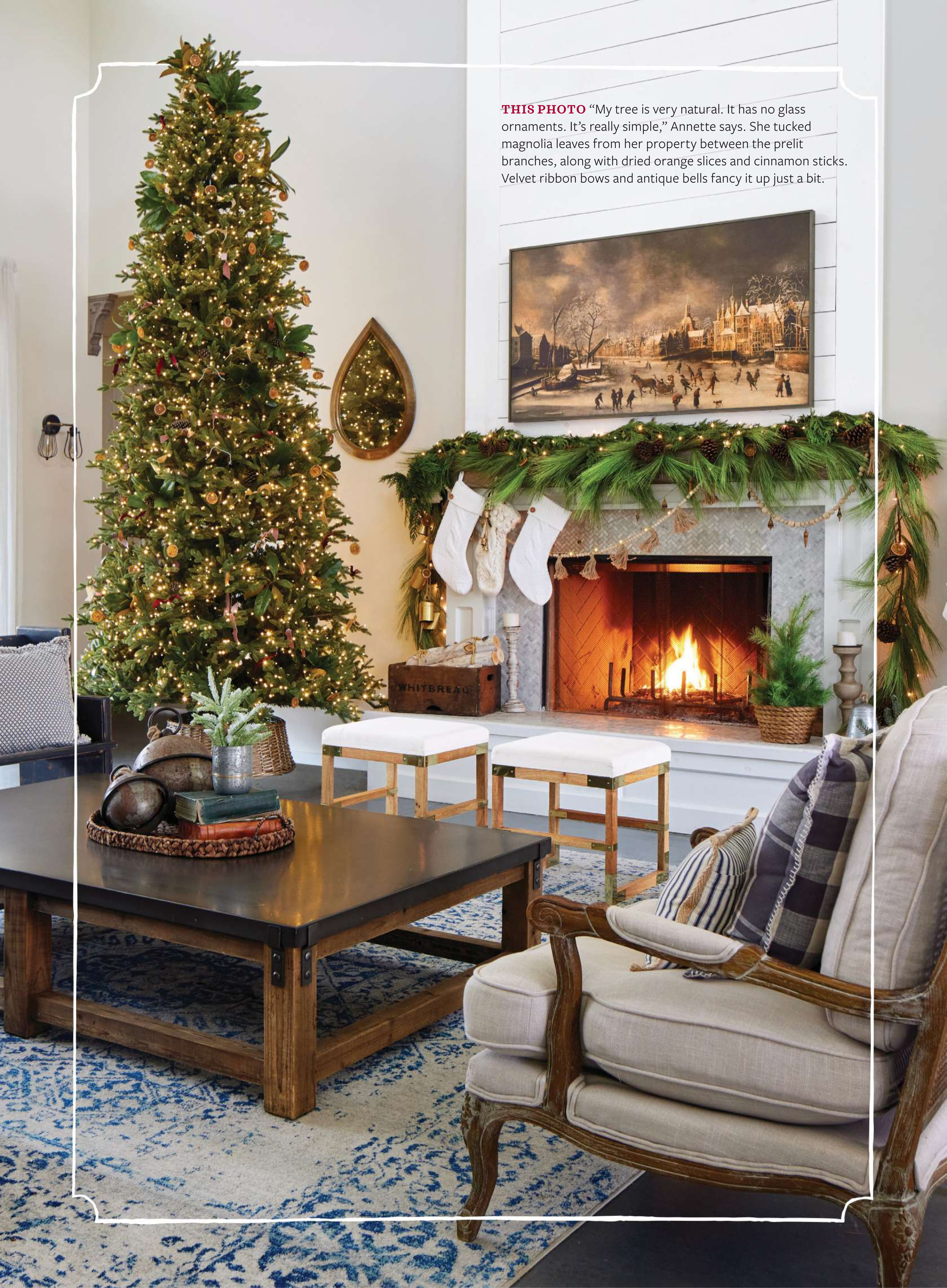
WELCOME

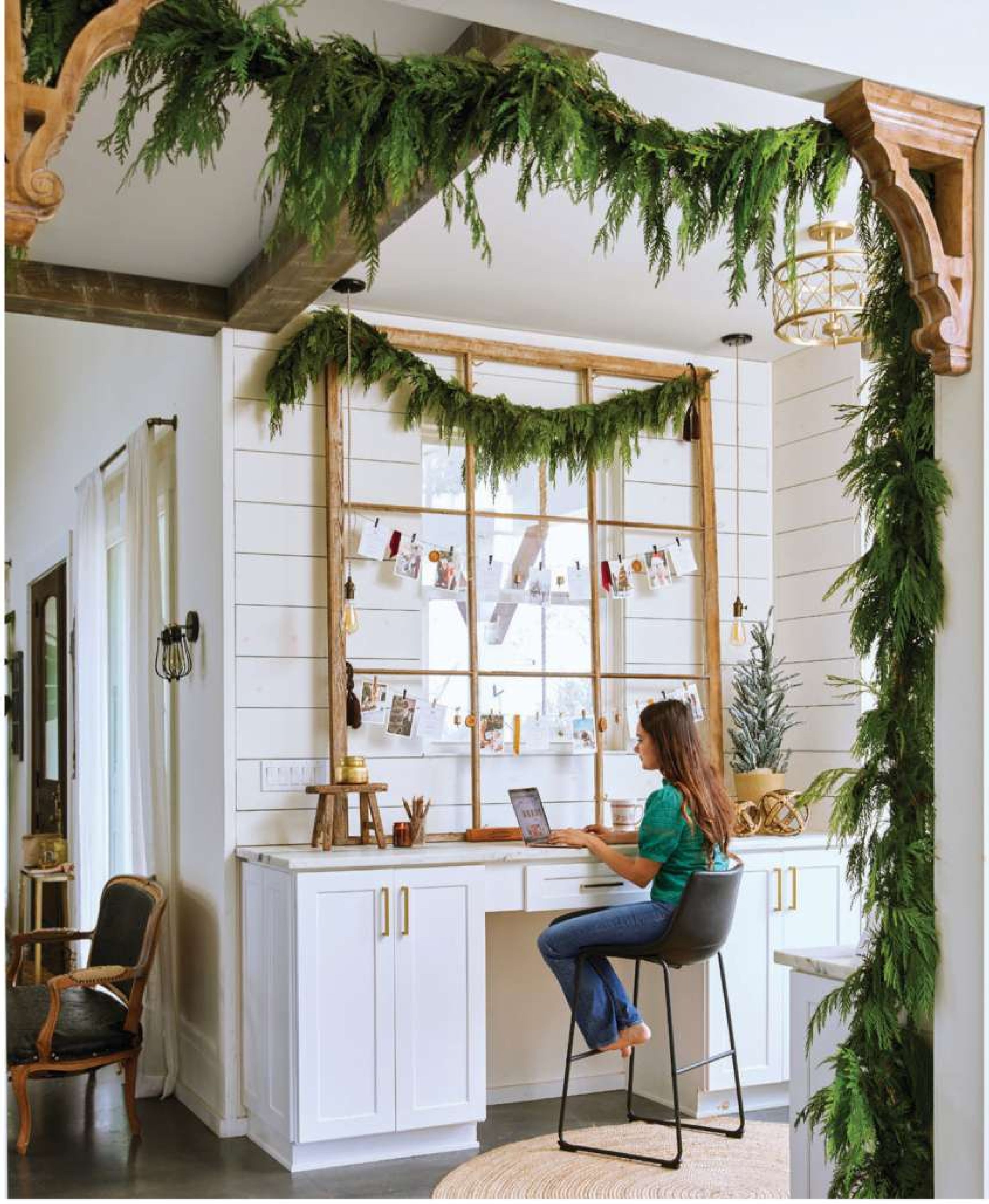
JOYFUL, joyful

With a young daughter and an ever-expanding host of farm animals, this young family's Christmas celebrations are getting bigger, deeper, and more magical by the year.

Photography by **ADAM ALBRIGHT** Written by **JOANNA LINBERG**



THIS PHOTO “My tree is very natural. It has no glass ornaments. It’s really simple,” Annette says. She tucked magnolia leaves from her property between the prelit branches, along with dried orange slices and cinnamon sticks. Velvet ribbon bows and antique bells fancy it up just a bit.



ABOVE An old window frame the couple found in their barn crowns Annette’s built-in office nook. At Christmas, the nook hosts an Advent calendar and photographs of holidays past. “I want to focus on the importance of family and the reason behind the holiday,” Annette says. “Hopefully our traditions bring us closer together.”

IT’S THE MORNING AFTER CHRISTMAS AND ANNETTE THURMON IS WRAPPED UP in the monogrammed bathrobe her mother-in-law gave her the day before. But she’s not tucked into a chair by the fireplace—she’s out in her chicken coop feeding her flock. December is a relatively restful time on Azure Farm, the 5 acres one hour north of Atlanta where Annette and her husband, Jared, raise alpacas, miniature horses, chickens, ducks, geese, and their daughter, Ava, 2½. “A lot of our focus gets to be inside our home this time of year,” Annette says. “And I’m excited because Ava is bigger and will be able to be a little more a part of it.”

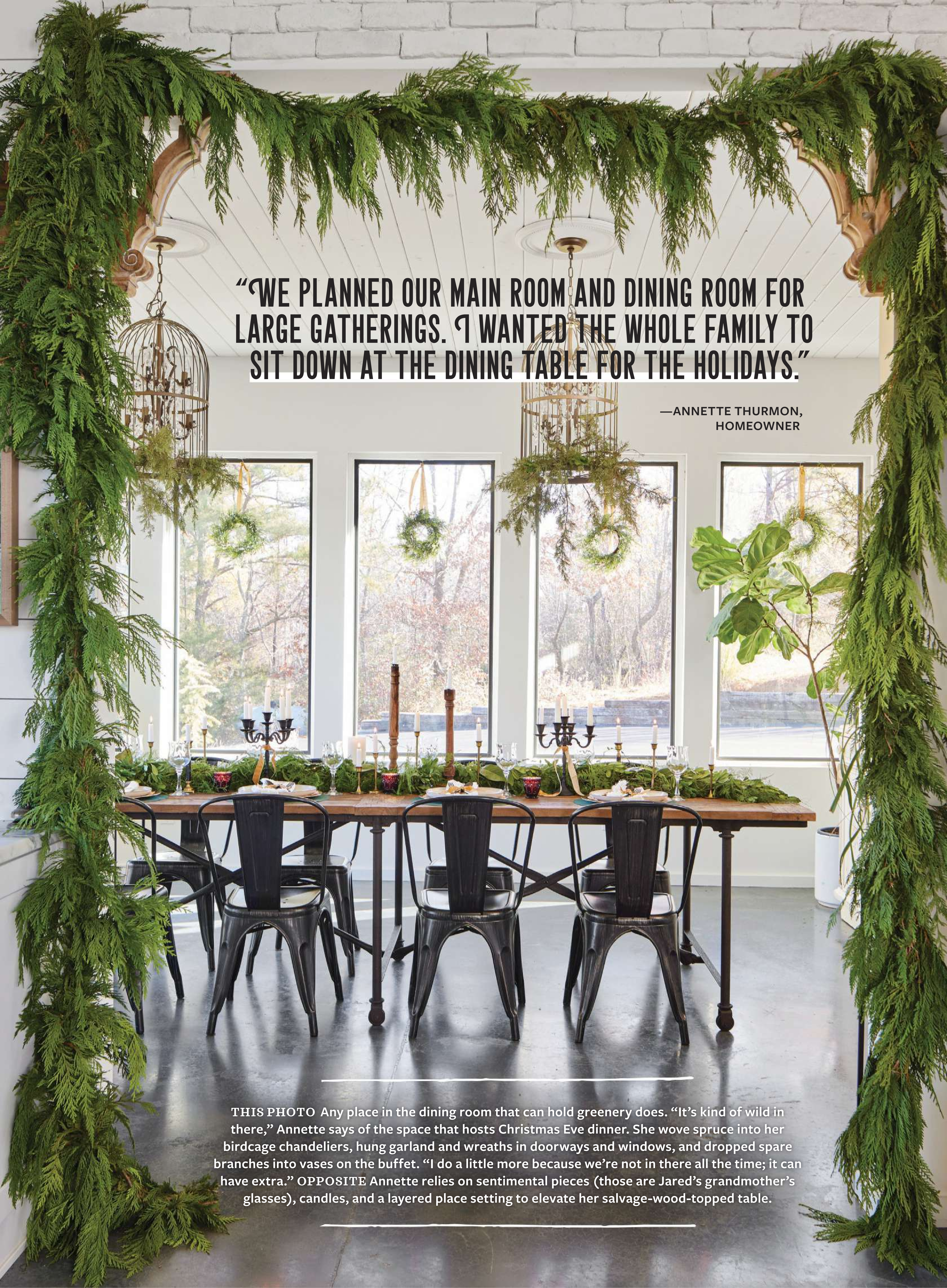
At the start of the season, the Thurmons tromp around the farm gathering evergreen branches destined for vases and cedar boughs and pinecones to turn into garlands. “I try to do very natural decorating with what we find,” Annette says. “Whatever season, I try to bring a lot of the outdoors in instead of overly ‘done’ decor.”

But that doesn’t mean she doesn’t have a plan. Every year, Annette makes a short list of easy-to-find or -make materials, then tucks the results into the greenery, scatters them on the table, and piles them in bowls for Ava to grab and examine. This year, dried orange slices, bundles of cinnamon sticks, and velvet ribbon are her go-tos. “I cut magnolia leaves and put those in the Christmas tree,” Annette says. “Christmas decor is expensive. Instead of buying, I go outside and get it.”

She strings up another holiday constant, her collection of antique bells, then heads outside. “Of course I decorate the greenhouse for the holidays!” she says. And the chicken coop, and the barn, and the other outbuildings, which all are trimmed with garland and stocked with trees big and small. It’s enchanting to Ava—and the grown-ups, too, especially while they’re performing the daily work of tending their animals. “When you think about it, it’s still just your normal life, but when there are twinkle lights, it does make it more special,” Annette says.

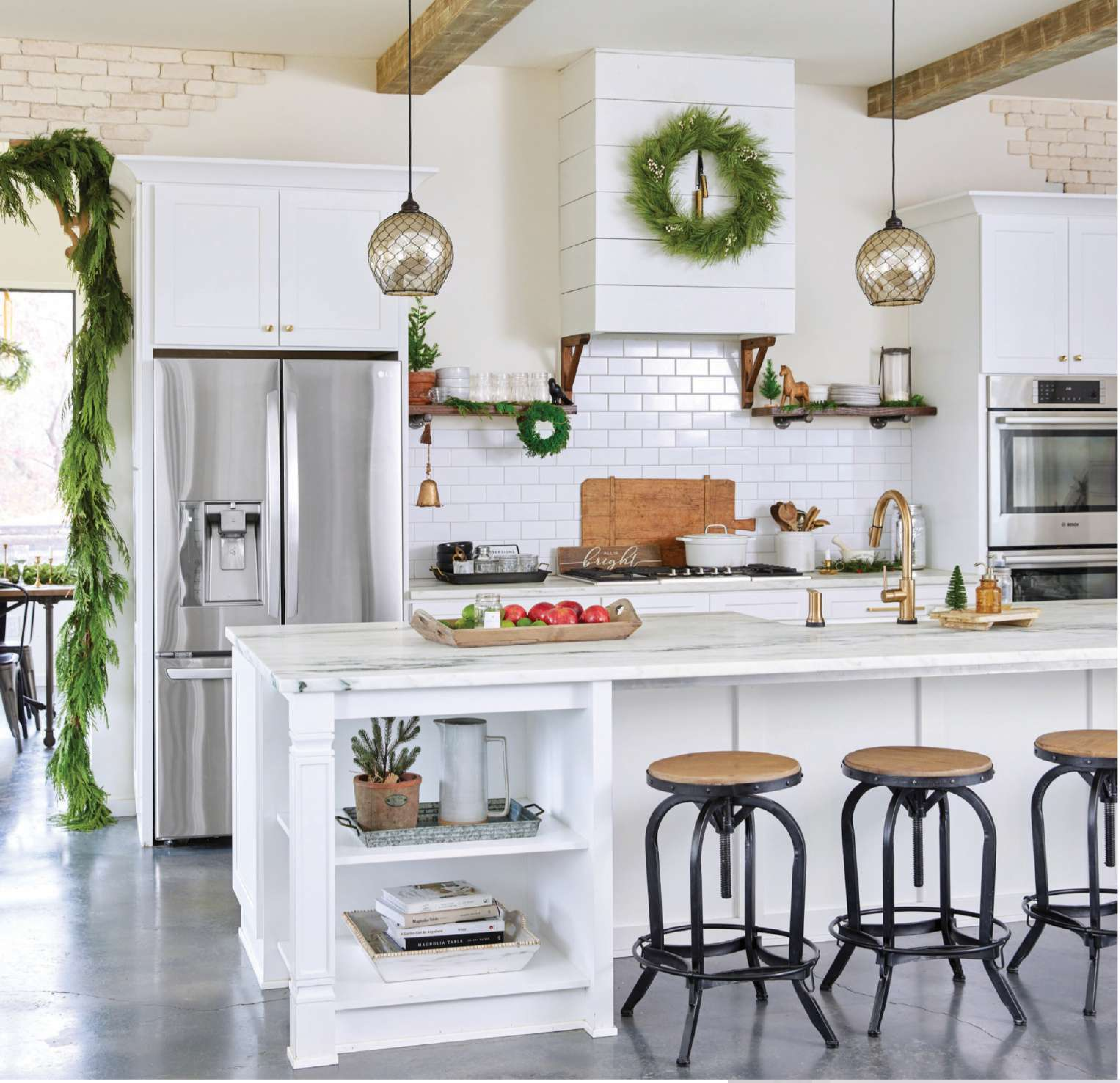
When the setting includes a miniature horse trotting around with a tartan scarf around her neck, it’s magical. Annette and Jared are focusing their newest traditions on creating meaning that’s just as impactful: An Advent calendar with cards suggesting ways to help or give to others hangs in Annette’s office nook. She prints photos of family at previous Christmases to prompt retellings of important memories. And then they make new ones, preparing and enjoying a Cuban feast on Christmas Eve with Annette’s parents, who live next door and emigrated decades ago. The next day, they join Jared’s family for a riotous meal where Ava is taken under the wing of her older cousins.

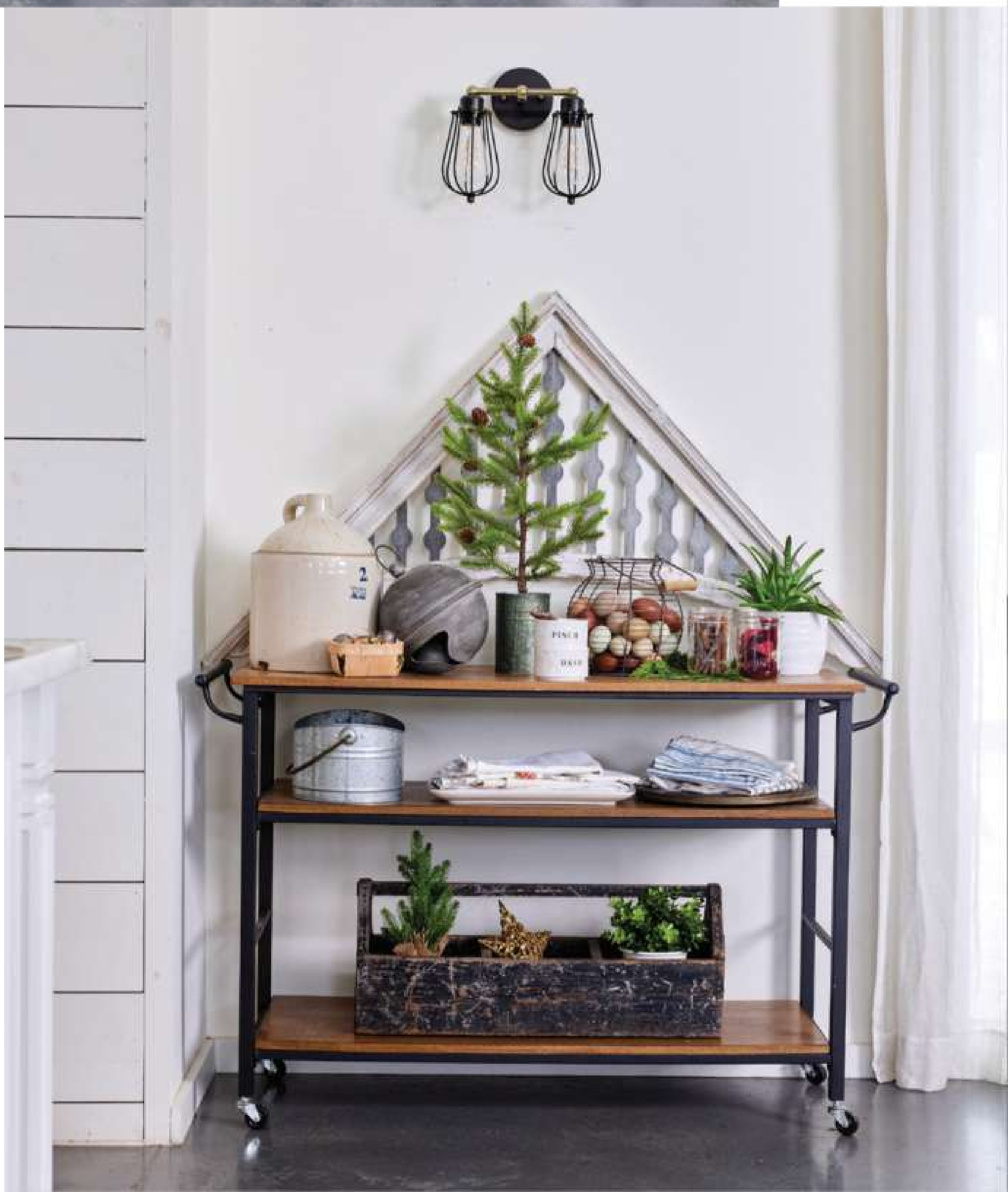
It doesn’t get better than this, unless they can rope the animals in, too. Annette already has an idea brewing on that front. “I’ve thought of doing a nativity scene inside with the donkeys,” she says, taking advantage of her easy-clean concrete floors. “It will be them, and a big 2½-year-old baby in the manger.” ✳



> “WE PLANNED OUR MAIN ROOM AND DINING ROOM FOR LARGE GATHERINGS. I WANTED THE WHOLE FAMILY TO SIT DOWN AT THE DINING TABLE FOR THE HOLIDAYS.”
>
> —ANNETTE THURMON,
> HOMEOWNER

THIS PHOTO Any place in the dining room that can hold greenery does. “It’s kind of wild in there,” Annette says of the space that hosts Christmas Eve dinner. She wove spruce into her birdcage chandeliers, hung garland and wreaths in doorways and windows, and dropped spare branches into vases on the buffet. “I do a little more because we’re not in there all the time; it can have extra.” OPPOSITE Annette relies on sentimental pieces (those are Jared’s grandmother’s glasses), candles, and a layered place setting to elevate her salvage-wood-topped table.





ABOVE Annette never leaves the kitchen out of her decorating plans. "It's part of the fun for me, but we use this space every day, so it's gotta be livable," she says. To save room for cookie making and gingerbread house decorating, she focuses on small additions, literally: mini faux trees on the shelves, tiny wreaths hung in a few spots, and a bell or two. **RIGHT** The utility cart in the kitchen is a mix of practical and pretty, hosting table linens and phone chargers hidden in an antique toolbox, plus extra orange slices, cinnamon sticks, and pinecones. Some items, like the eggs collected from the Thurmons' flock of chickens, are both. **OPPOSITE** With Ava came new traditions, like a metal Christmas tree for her bedroom. "All the ornaments on it were given to her, or I collected them before she was born, or we've made them since," Annette says. A flocked garland wraps the center pole for more texture and "snow."

Dressing Greens

LIKE THE IDEA OF KEEPING THINGS SIMPLE THIS YEAR? LET ANNETTE THURMON'S PAST (AND POTENTIAL FUTURE) IDEAS FOR PAIRING GREENERY WITH EXTRAS GET YOU STARTED.

GOLDEN HOUR

Dried lemons spiked with cloves, golden bells, pine accents, plus humble twine for hanging.

RED HOT

Dried apple slices and cinnamon sticks tucked in blue spruce boughs, and fresh cranberries in glass jars with candles.

ALL IS CALM

Mixed evergreen branches to set off the golden bells and white ornaments; burlap accents throughout.

COOLING EFFECT

Silver bells and blue velvet ribbon in pinecone-studded cedar garland, with cedar swags and wreaths.

FRESH CUT
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Santa's Supply Co.

OPPOSITE The balmy greenhouse is a favorite respite from 20-degree winter days, so Annette pumps up the festive spirit with trees in pots, trees in buckets, and garlands. The space is big enough for a table, and she hopes to host a holiday party there one day. For now, it's enough to watch Ava harvest the spinach, lettuce, and herbs they grow in the wintertime. **CLOCKWISE FROM TOP** Alpakita arrived with her mama at Azure Farm at a month old, and now the full-grown alpaca has been joined by four others, including her own offspring, Felix. The goats know a good photo op when they see one. Nutmeg, one of two miniature horses on the farm, poses in front of the chicken coop, which also gets Annette's signature greens.

HOLLY JOLLY TREASURE HUNTING

Inspired by childhood memories of celebrating Christmas at her grandma's house, Emily Baker collects and displays vintage yuletide items with a very merry zeal.

Styled & written by LACEY HOWARD
Photography by JAY WILDE

WHAT Bottle-brush trees, a midcentury Christmas decorating must-have, are one of today's popular collectibles—as both vintage and new. "There are a few things to look for when trying to determine if one is actually old," collector Emily Baker says—fading color on bristles, rust and dust where the center wire meets the base, and bent, tattered, or missing bristles. Trees come in a variety of sizes and colors, and some even have tiny decorations. "Most, if not all, of my decorated trees are missing a piece or two," Emily says. "I feel that it just adds to the charm."

DISPLAY IDEAS "The great thing about trees," Emily says, "is you can put them anywhere to add a little spark of Christmas." Create a forest on its own, or place trees in your putz village.

COST "Depending on where you are, you can find trees for a couple bucks or, for larger ones, $25 and more," Emily says. "For me, the challenge is to find the ones with extras like fruit or mercury glass ornaments tucked in. To me those are now more desirable."

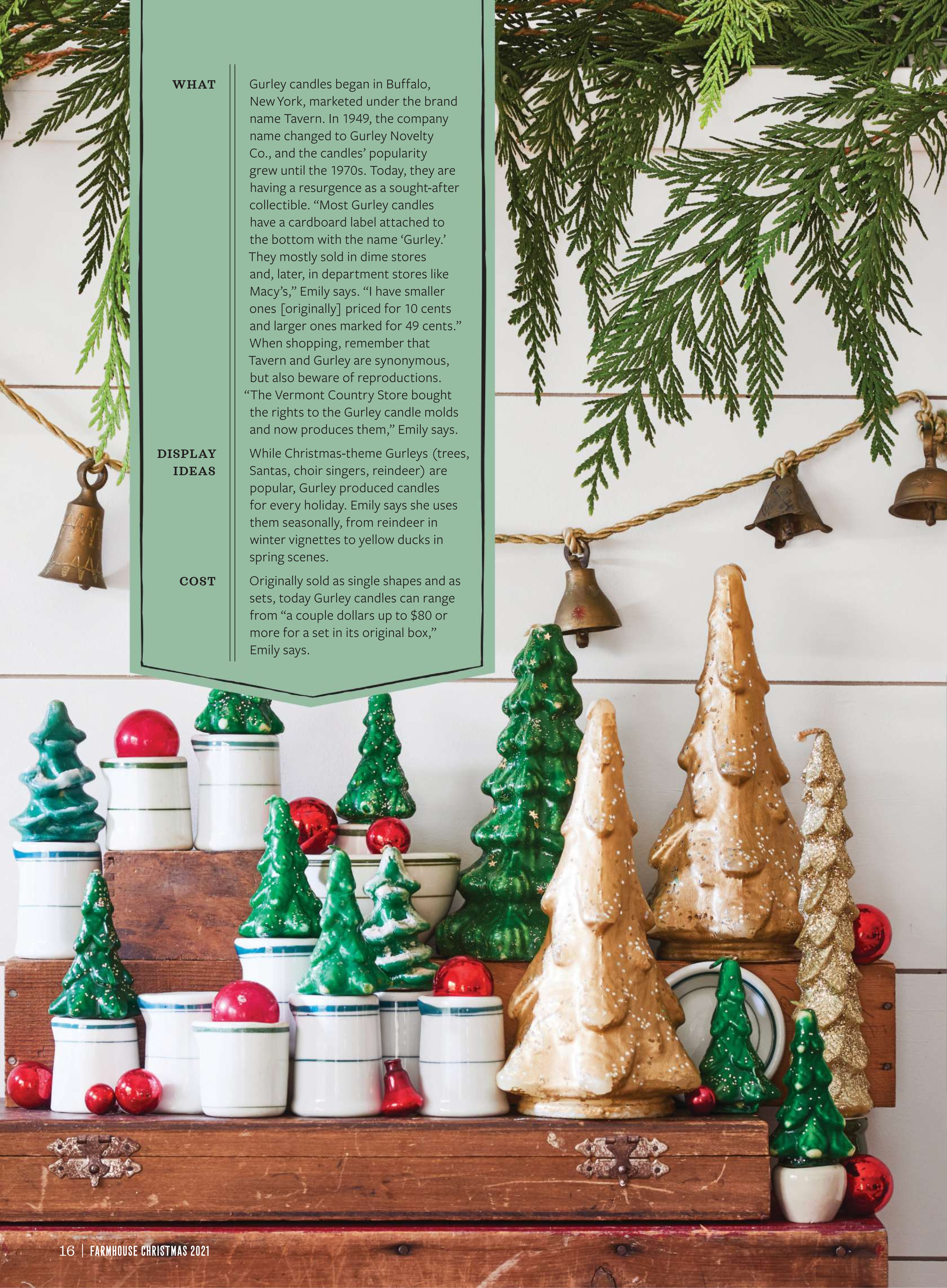
"At Christmastime, the same excitement I had as a child when finally arriving at Grandma's in Michigan after a really, really long drive floods my mind as I unpack my collections and decorate," says Atlanta-area collector Emily Baker, who blogs about antiques at *myweatheredhome.com* and posts on Instagram @myweatheredhome. "We spent Christmas with her every single year, and my collections remind me of her."

Emily's beloved collections of vintage Christmas decor literally began in her grandparents' home. "They had moved out, and my dad and I took a trip up there to clean some things out. I was always drawn to her Christmas decor, and going through those things and remembering sparked my interest. I took as much as I could," she says. In the years since, Emily, who describes herself as "no expert, but a passionate, longtime collector," has added droves to those items rescued from her grandmother's holiday bins. "In 2013 my kids were small and I began an antiques business. That is when my passion and my collections exploded," she says. "I have always loved old Christmas. I don't like to put it up for sale," she says. "It is hard for me to part with it!"

Emily displays her collections of putz houses, bottlebrush trees, Santa mugs, mercury-glass ornaments, and more in carefully curated and lovingly constructed vignettes throughout her home—on the shelves of timeworn cabinets and bookshelves, on mantels and kitchen and bathroom countertops. But she doesn't repeat herself. "I don't decorate the same way every time—I won't do what I did this year again next year," she says. "Our family items like the Advent calendar always go in the same place, but my collections bounce around and I display them differently. And I don't use everything every year—I mix it up."

For Emily, not unpacking and displaying every single thing year after year raises each item's sentimental value, because she enjoys them less often, and amps up the nostalgia. "I remember riding in the back seat of a big old Oldsmobile, driving around the island south of Detroit, oohing and ahhing at Christmas lights with Grandma," Emily says. "I think all those vivid childhood memories tie into my excitement and passion for collecting." ✳

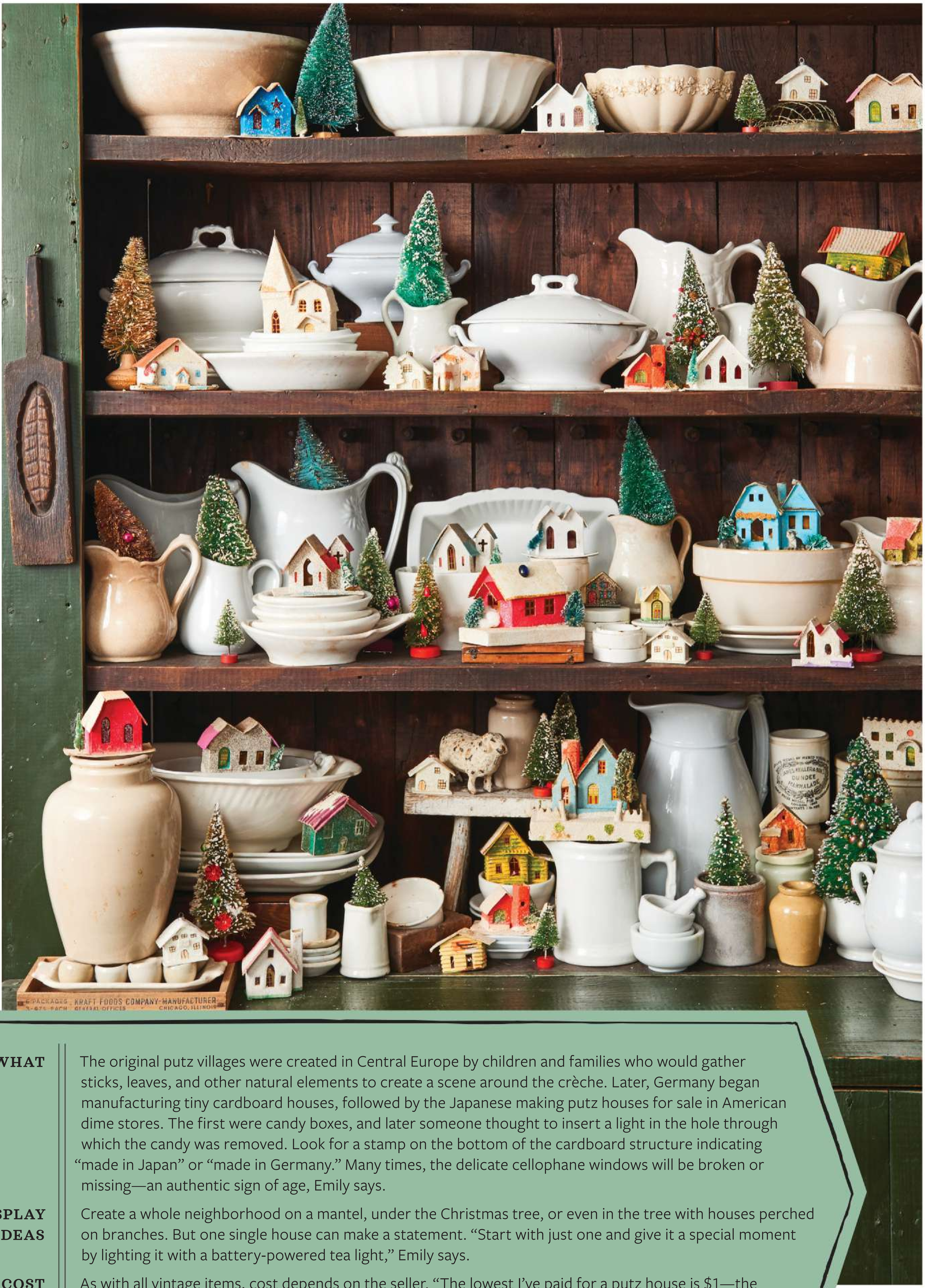
WHAT	"Vintage Santa mugs are one of the hottest vintage Christmas items these days," Emily says. "People are buying them up as fast as they can!" Emily's first mugs came from her grandma's house and, at last count, her collection is 67 mugs strong. The first Santa mugs were produced in 1949 as part of a seasonal dishware set by Holt-Howard. "Most of mine have indented markings—Holt-Howard, Japan, or Taiwan. These markings are almost always an indicator that you have a true vintage mug," Emily says. "I've seen vintage-look Santa mugs for sale at Target, Pottery Barn, and other places." For vintage, make sure "you can tell they've been around," she says. But keep in mind that today's mugs are the collectibles of the future.
DISPLAY IDEAS	Vintage mugs are perfect for display on kitchen shelves or in cupboards.
COST	"Last Christmas I paid $5 for one—that's a fair, low price," Emily says. Santa mugs with a jeweled eye or a bell or a winking Santa are more desirable and can be as much as $45 each. Sets—mugs with a pitcher—are also sought-after and go for well over $100. "Now I'm looking for really unique ones," Emily says.



WHAT	Gurley candles began in Buffalo, New York, marketed under the brand name Tavern. In 1949, the company name changed to Gurley Novelty Co., and the candles' popularity grew until the 1970s. Today, they are having a resurgence as a sought-after collectible. "Most Gurley candles have a cardboard label attached to the bottom with the name 'Gurley.' They mostly sold in dime stores and, later, in department stores like Macy's," Emily says. "I have smaller ones [originally] priced for 10 cents and larger ones marked for 49 cents." When shopping, remember that Tavern and Gurley are synonymous, but also beware of reproductions. "The Vermont Country Store bought the rights to the Gurley candle molds and now produces them," Emily says.
DISPLAY IDEAS	While Christmas-theme Gurleys (trees, Santas, choir singers, reindeer) are popular, Gurley produced candles for every holiday. Emily says she uses them seasonally, from reindeer in winter vignettes to yellow ducks in spring scenes.
COST	Originally sold as single shapes and as sets, today Gurley candles can range from "a couple dollars up to $80 or more for a set in its original box," Emily says.

WHAT	Plastic nativity scenes are “quirky and very charming,” Emily says. “They are a really easy collectible because the whole scene is one piece—there aren’t tiny pieces that get lost.” Because these vintage items are plastic and stamped “Made in Hong Kong,” Emily’s best guess is that they are midcentury. “Early Christmas items are usually German- and Japanese-made. Taiwan and Hong Kong are makers of 1950s and ’60s goods,” she says.
DISPLAY IDEAS	“I only have four so far,” Emily says of her newest collection. “It will be interesting this year to see how many I find.” She can envision having them as ornaments on a tree, or each in its own glass jar, nestled in sand, with a star ornament hung from the jar’s lid to create a diorama.
COST	Emily picked up her first miniature plastic crèche at an estate sale. “I saw this box labeled ‘Vintage Christmas’ sitting on a shelf.” She paid $3. “And I paid 25 cents for a tiny one,” she says.

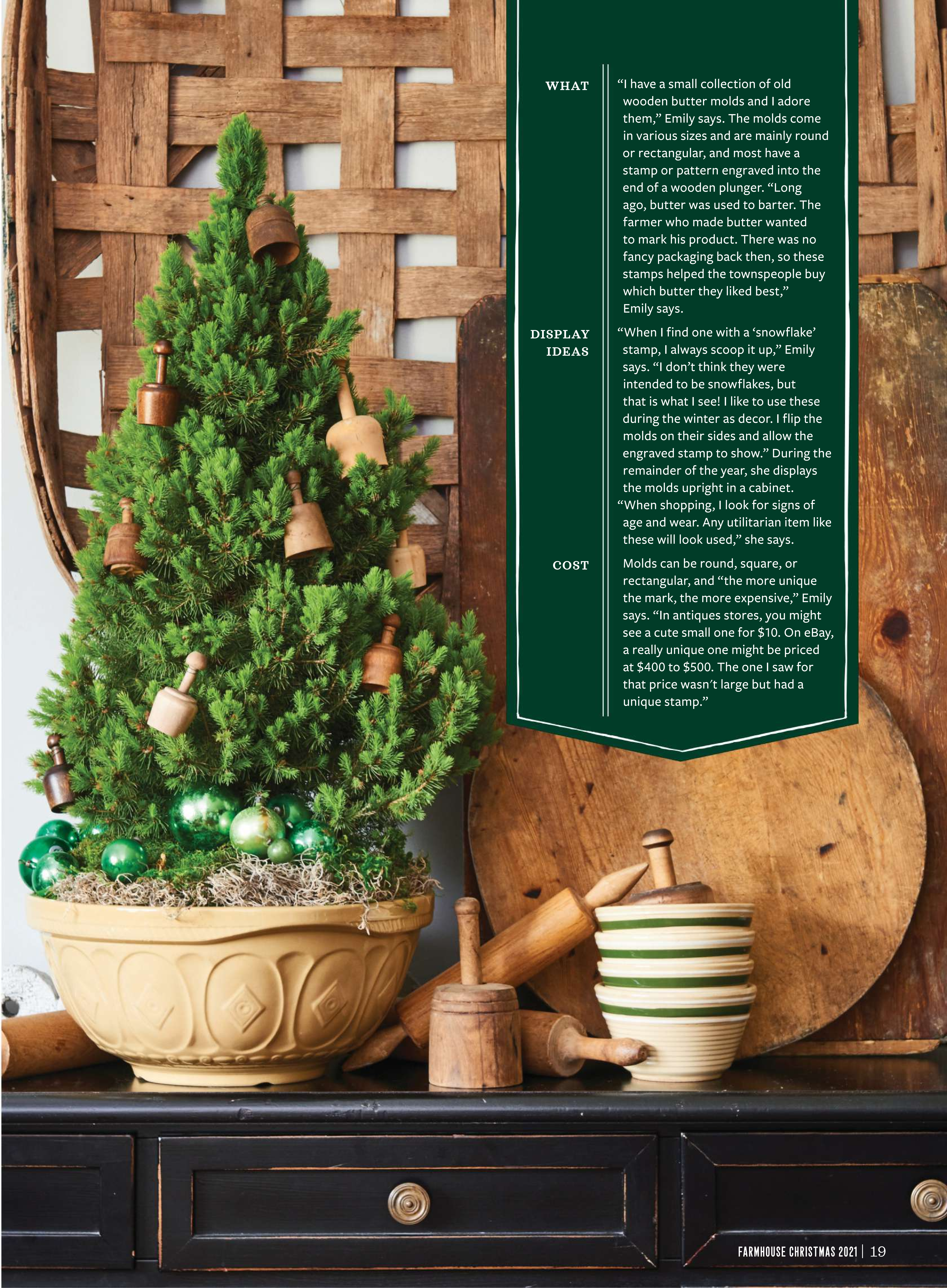
WHAT	Blown-glass Shiny Brite-brand ornaments (known for being silvered on the inside and painted in vibrant hues on the outside) were the signature adornment of midcentury Christmas trees and made in America. Today, many people refer to all vintage glass ornaments as Shiny Brite, but that’s not accurate. “My oldest handblown, hand-painted ornaments came from Germany and Poland and are probably early 1900s,” Emily says.
DISPLAY IDEAS	“Honestly, any way you can show off their beauty is great—in bowls, a candy dish, a chicken feeder with sisal or straw. Use your imagination,” Emily says. Even the empty ornament boxes are collectible.
COST	“Single ornaments are usually around $3 each for common colors upwards of $10 to $20 each depending on the condition and how unique it is. The more intricate the ornament, like reflectors and double reflectors, the more it costs,” she says. “And prices vary by location.”



WHAT The original putz villages were created in Central Europe by children and families who would gather sticks, leaves, and other natural elements to create a scene around the crèche. Later, Germany began manufacturing tiny cardboard houses, followed by the Japanese making putz houses for sale in American dime stores. The first were candy boxes, and later someone thought to insert a light in the hole through which the candy was removed. Look for a stamp on the bottom of the cardboard structure indicating "made in Japan" or "made in Germany." Many times, the delicate cellophane windows will be broken or missing—an authentic sign of age, Emily says.

DISPLAY IDEAS Create a whole neighborhood on a mantel, under the Christmas tree, or even in the tree with houses perched on branches. But one single house can make a statement. "Start with just one and give it a special moment by lighting it with a battery-powered tea light," Emily says.

COST As with all vintage items, cost depends on the seller. "The lowest I've paid for a putz house is $1—the seller didn't understand its value. And then on eBay I saw one for $100," Emily says. When browsing antiques stores, keep your eyes peeled, she advises: "Putz houses are small, so they can be easy to miss."



WHAT

“I have a small collection of old wooden butter molds and I adore them,” Emily says. The molds come in various sizes and are mainly round or rectangular, and most have a stamp or pattern engraved into the end of a wooden plunger. “Long ago, butter was used to barter. The farmer who made butter wanted to mark his product. There was no fancy packaging back then, so these stamps helped the townspeople buy which butter they liked best,” Emily says.

DISPLAY IDEAS

“When I find one with a ‘snowflake’ stamp, I always scoop it up,” Emily says. “I don’t think they were intended to be snowflakes, but that is what I see! I like to use these during the winter as decor. I flip the molds on their sides and allow the engraved stamp to show.” During the remainder of the year, she displays the molds upright in a cabinet.

“When shopping, I look for signs of age and wear. Any utilitarian item like these will look used,” she says.

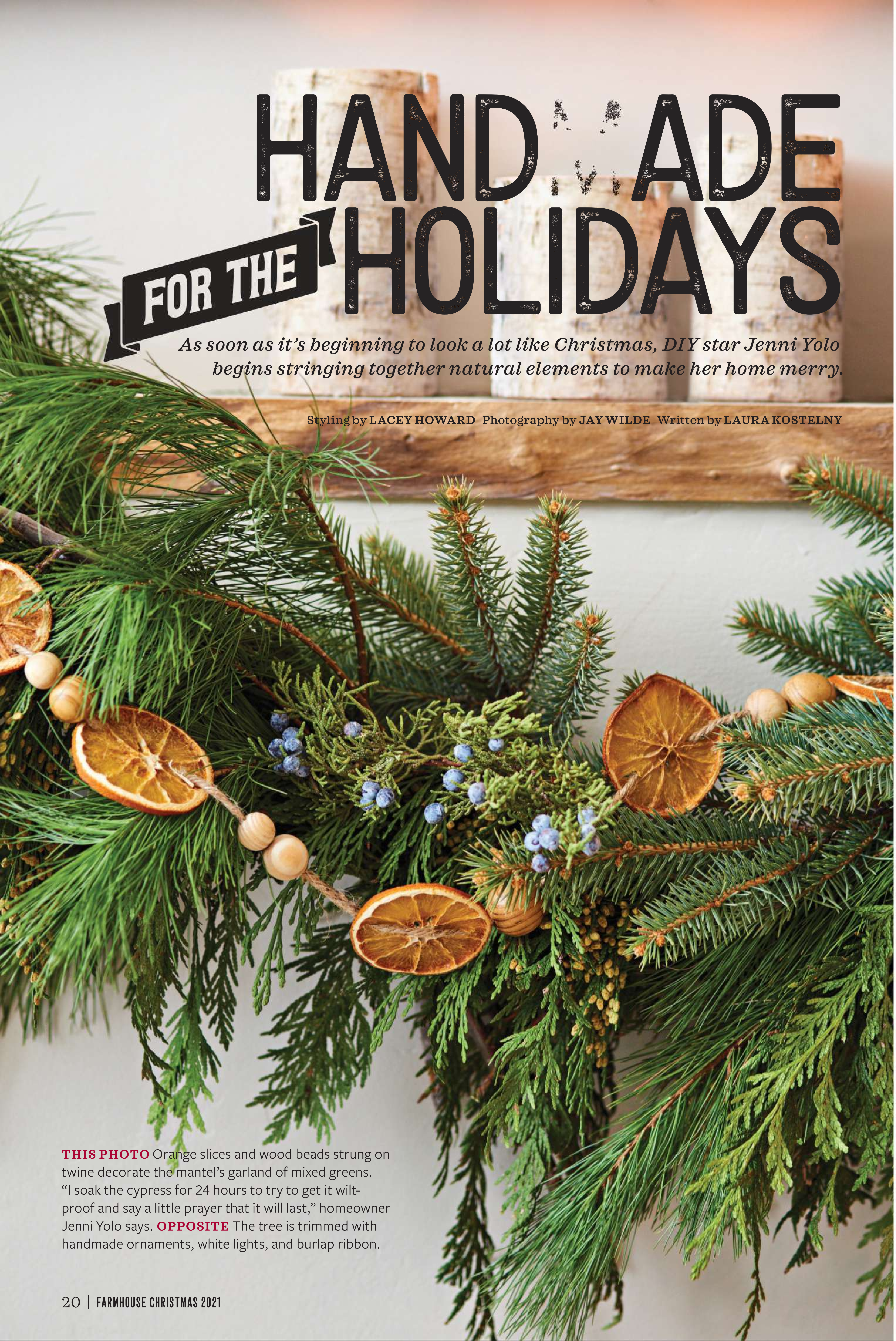
COST

Molds can be round, square, or rectangular, and “the more unique the mark, the more expensive,” Emily says. “In antiques stores, you might see a cute small one for $10. On eBay, a really unique one might be priced at $400 to $500. The one I saw for that price wasn’t large but had a unique stamp.”

HANDMADE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

As soon as it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, DIY star Jenni Yolo begins stringing together natural elements to make her home merry.

Styling by **LACEY HOWARD** Photography by **JAY WILDE** Written by **LAURA KOSTELNY**



THIS PHOTO Orange slices and wood beads strung on twine decorate the mantel's garland of mixed greens. "I soak the cypress for 24 hours to try to get it wilt-proof and say a little prayer that it will last," homeowner Jenni Yolo says. **OPPOSITE** The tree is trimmed with handmade ornaments, white lights, and burlap ribbon.

J

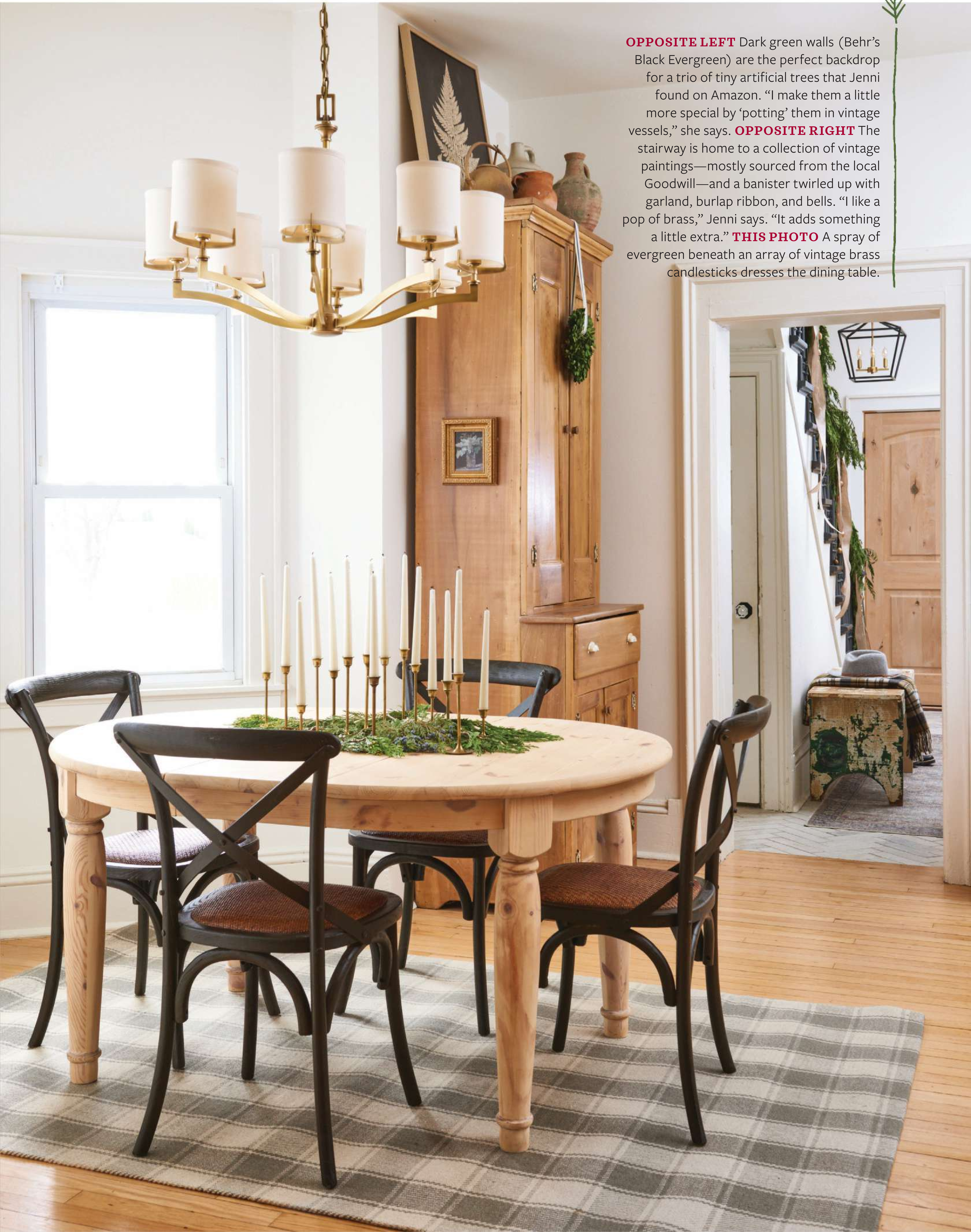
ABOVE David and Jenni Yolo with their daughter.

FORGET VISIONS OF SUGARPLUMS, LORDS A-LEAPING, AND STORE-BOUGHT TINSEL.

For Jenni Yolo, the holidays are synonymous with made-with-care ornaments, a surf-and-turf menu, and toddler-friendly karaoke. The Milwaukee, Wisconsin-based DIY maven has made it her business to build a huge following—223,000 strong on Instagram @ispydiy—with her pretty-yet-practical take on home renovation, so it's little surprise that she also brings plenty of creativity and a certain can-do spirit to holiday decor. Almost the minute the Thanksgiving plates have been cleared, she grabs her list—checks it twice—and heads to the tree farm with husband David and their almost 2-year-old daughter in search of the right Christmas tree. "I run around trying to pick out the perfect specimen as my husband pulls our kid around in a wagon. It is stressful," Jenni says.

After the family hauls home the perfect score, it takes its place of honor in a spot that Jenni has already spruced up. "We put up the green paneling in the living room, so the blue balsam looks extra beautiful," she says. When it comes time to deck the halls, she leans into a special blend of natural elements. Dried orange slices, twine, and wood beads make for a sweet garland on the tree and mantel. (Get the how-to, *page 27*.) Batches of salt dough are baked into simple-yet-elegant ornaments and toppers for packages wrapped in kraft paper. Cypress garlands are swagged over windows, on banisters, and across the oven hood. "It's fun to decorate with things that have a real handmade quality," she says. "Making ornaments is something I can do with my daughter every year, and then we can hold on to them and use them for years to come."

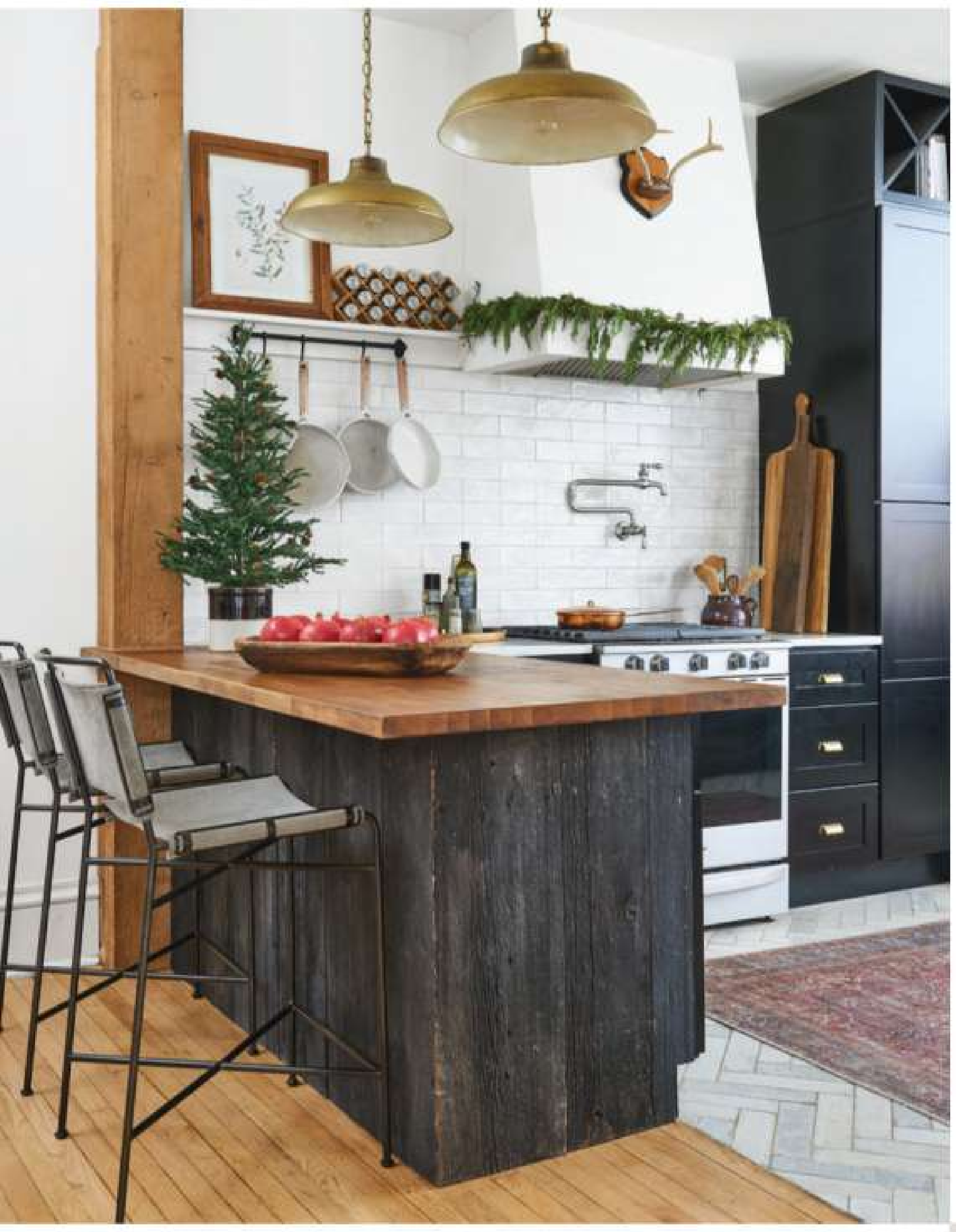
Once Christmas Eve finally rolls around, Jenni rolls up her sleeves for another big project: the annual steak-and-lobster dinner. "That's a tradition in my family," she says. And while this family of three waits to open the majority of their presents with extended family on Christmas Day, Baby Yolo will unwrap a few the night before. "It's fun to see the joy she brings to the whole holiday process. She has a little karaoke boom box, and she just bops around all over the place," Jenni says. "Having this little walking human around makes everything just a little extra special." ✳

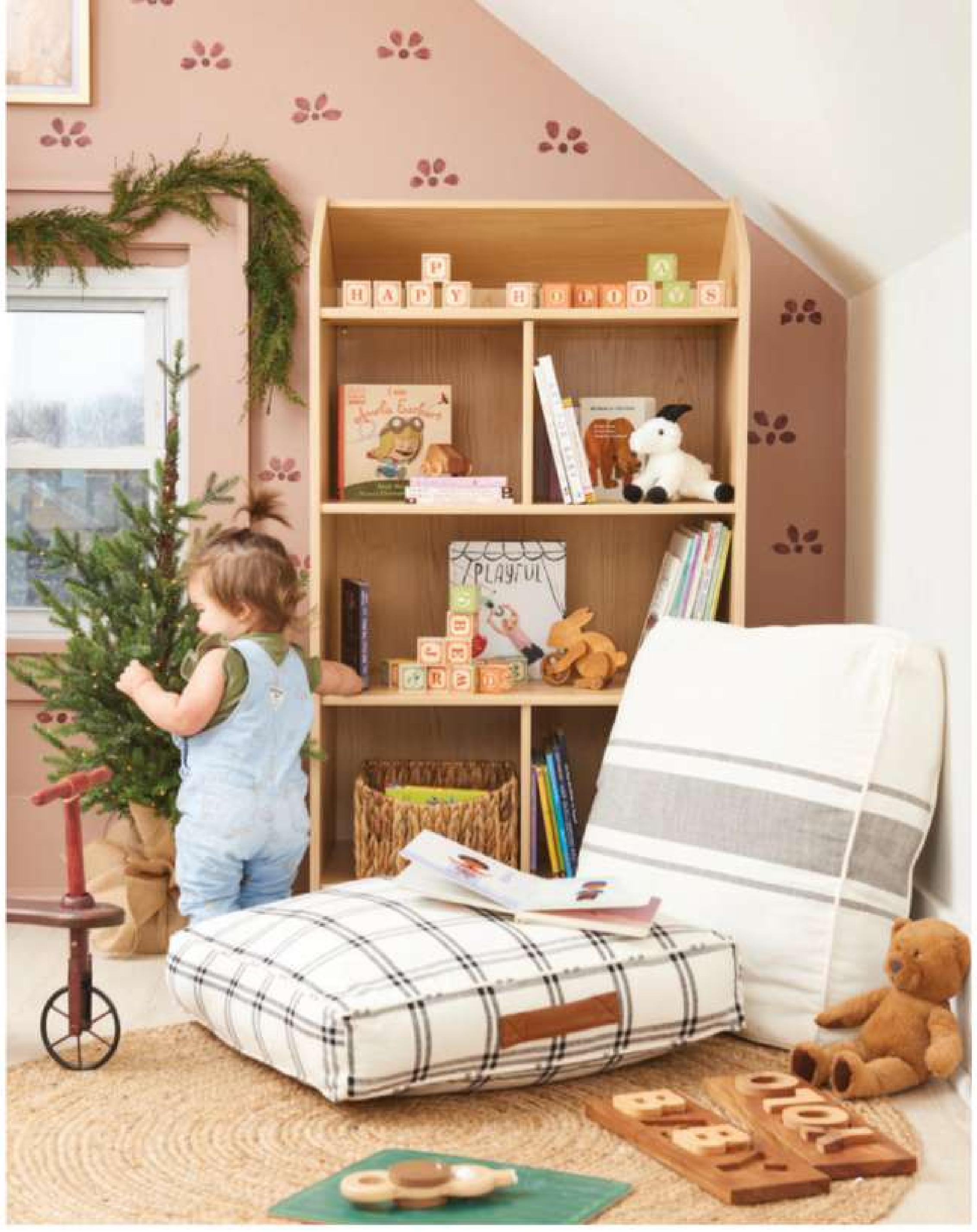


OPPOSITE LEFT Dark green walls (Behr's Black Evergreen) are the perfect backdrop for a trio of tiny artificial trees that Jenni found on Amazon. "I make them a little more special by 'potting' them in vintage vessels," she says. **OPPOSITE RIGHT** The stairway is home to a collection of vintage paintings—mostly sourced from the local Goodwill—and a banister twirled up with garland, burlap ribbon, and bells. "I like a pop of brass," Jenni says. "It adds something a little extra." **THIS PHOTO** A spray of evergreen beneath an array of vintage brass candlesticks dresses the dining table.

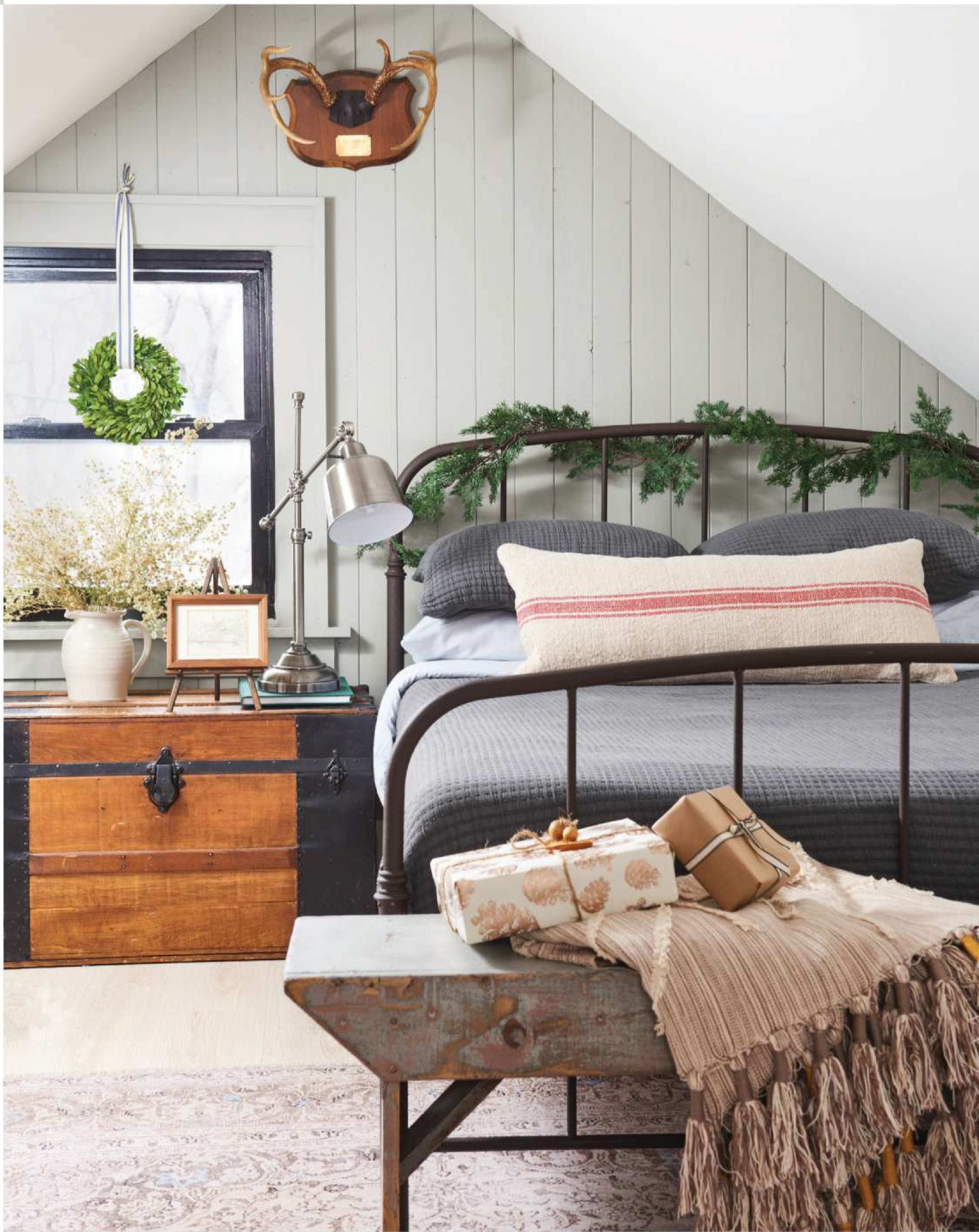
“IT MAKES IT MORE FUN TO DECORATE WITH THINGS THAT YOU CAN MAKE AND KEEP FOR YEARS.”

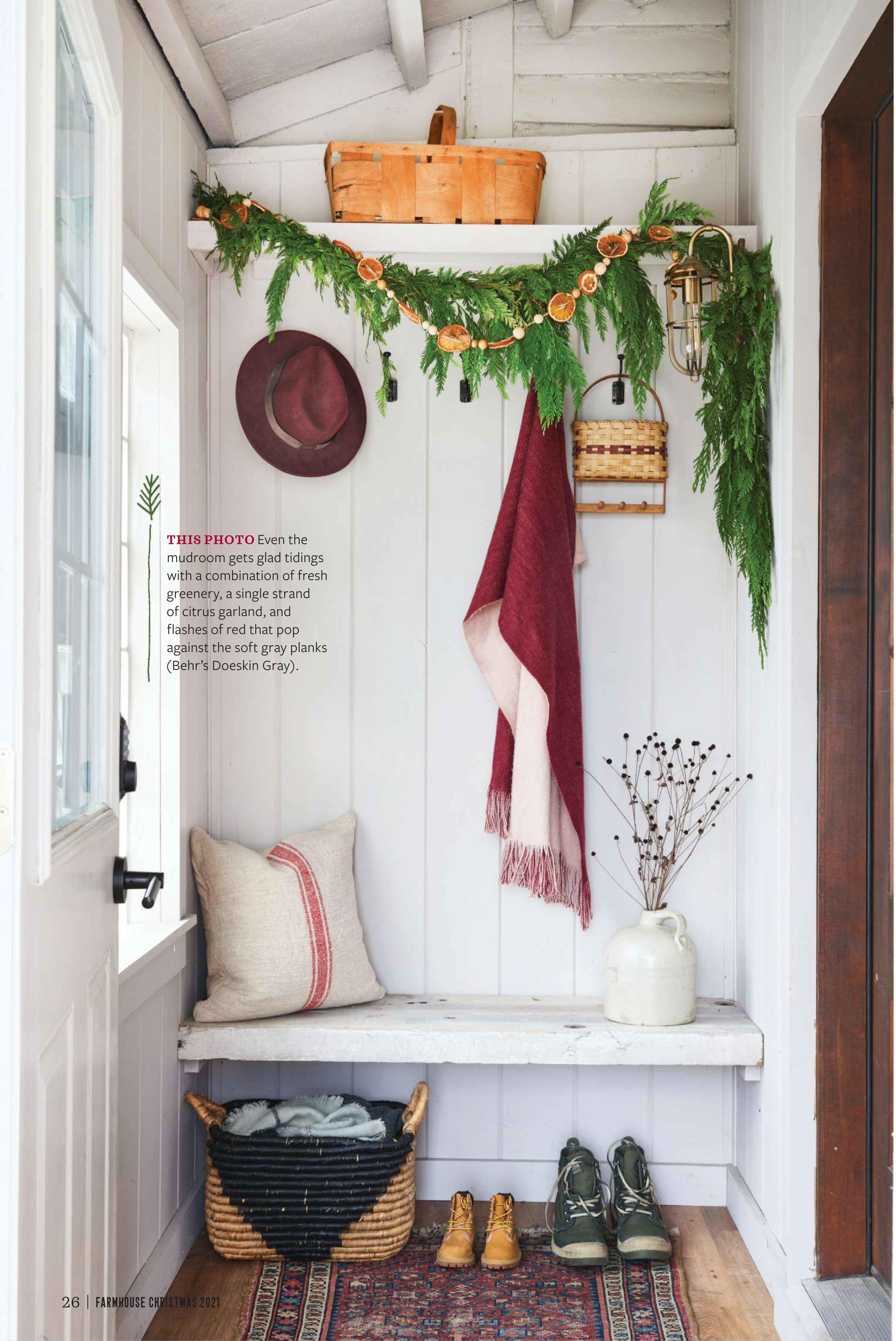
—JENNI YOLO, HOMEOWNER





OPPOSITE Because the kitchen is the most popular gathering place, Jenni likes to deck it out with greenery, both real and faux. She hangs artificial boxwood wreaths with red-striped burlap ribbon and adds sprigs of cypress in unexpected spots like behind breadboards and vintage paintings. **ABOVE** Jenni advises keeping an eye on sprigs that adorn oven hoods. “Some areas are more garland-friendly than others,” she says. “We have to watch for needles falling into our food.” **ABOVE RIGHT** The wall color (Redend Point by Sherwin-Williams) in Baby Yolo’s reading nook was inspired by her very first artwork, and she gets a right-size tree with simple white lights that’s all her very own. **RIGHT** The cozy loft guest room is outfitted with a metal bed (an Amazon find) and a vintage perch for perfectly wrapped presents.



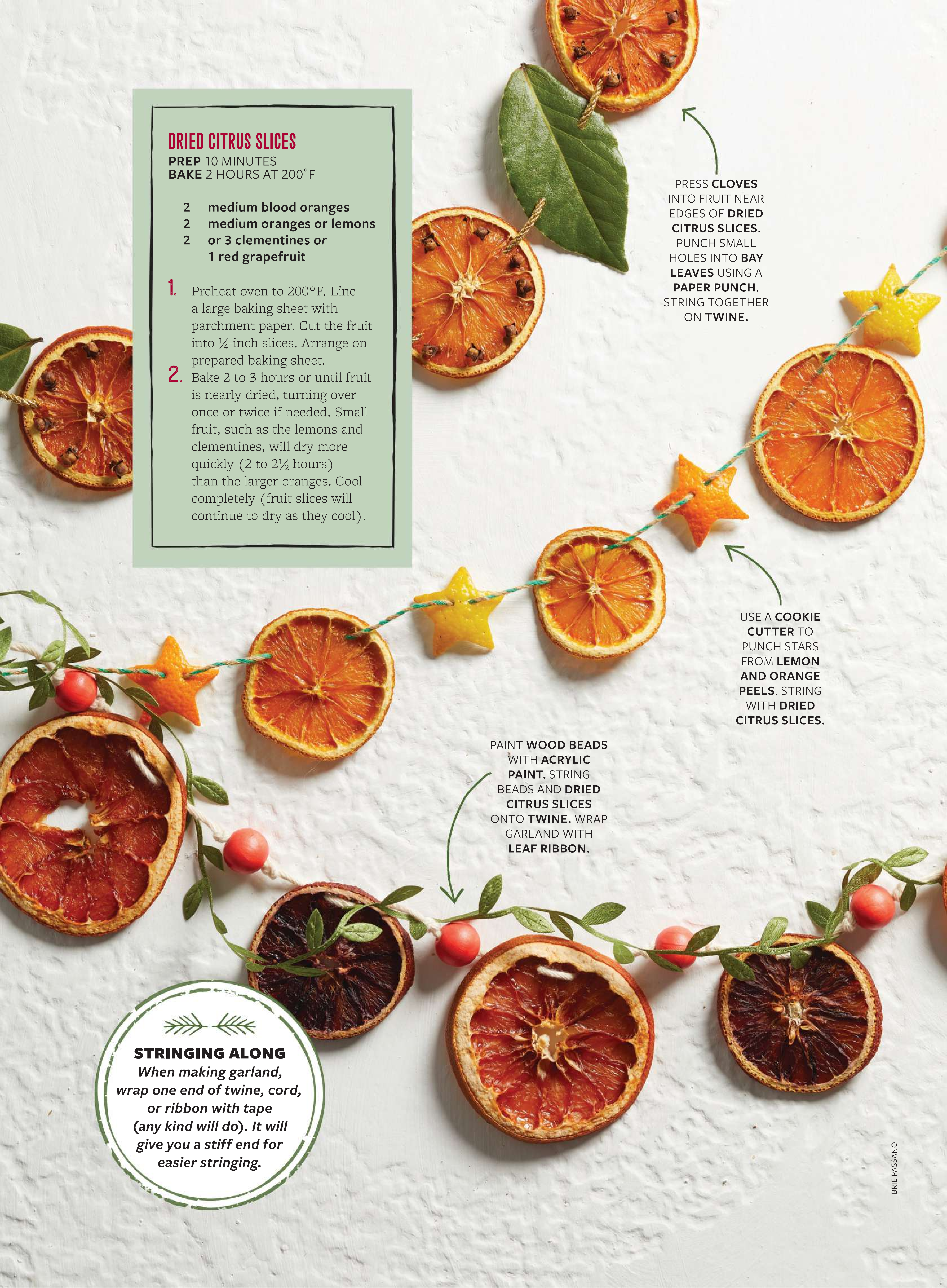


THIS PHOTO Even the mudroom gets glad tidings with a combination of fresh greenery, a single strand of citrus garland, and flashes of red that pop against the soft gray planks (Behr's Doeskin Gray).

CITRUS CRAFTS

CITRUS ISN'T JUST FOR SNACKING THIS TIME OF YEAR. WHEN DRIED, SLICES TURN INTO VIBRANT, JEWEL-TONE FOCAL POINTS FOR DECORATING PACKAGES, GARLANDS, AND WREATHS.

PHOTO AND STYLING: JENNI YOLO



DRIED CITRUS SLICES

PREP 10 MINUTES
BAKE 2 HOURS AT 200°F

- **2 medium blood oranges**
- **2 medium oranges or lemons**
- **2 or 3 clementines** ***or***
  1 red grapefruit

1. Preheat oven to 200°F. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper. Cut the fruit into ¼-inch slices. Arrange on prepared baking sheet.
2. Bake 2 to 3 hours or until fruit is nearly dried, turning over once or twice if needed. Small fruit, such as the lemons and clementines, will dry more quickly (2 to 2½ hours) than the larger oranges. Cool completely (fruit slices will continue to dry as they cool).

PRESS **CLOVES** INTO FRUIT NEAR EDGES OF **DRIED CITRUS SLICES**. PUNCH SMALL HOLES INTO **BAY LEAVES** USING A **PAPER PUNCH**. STRING TOGETHER ON **TWINE.**

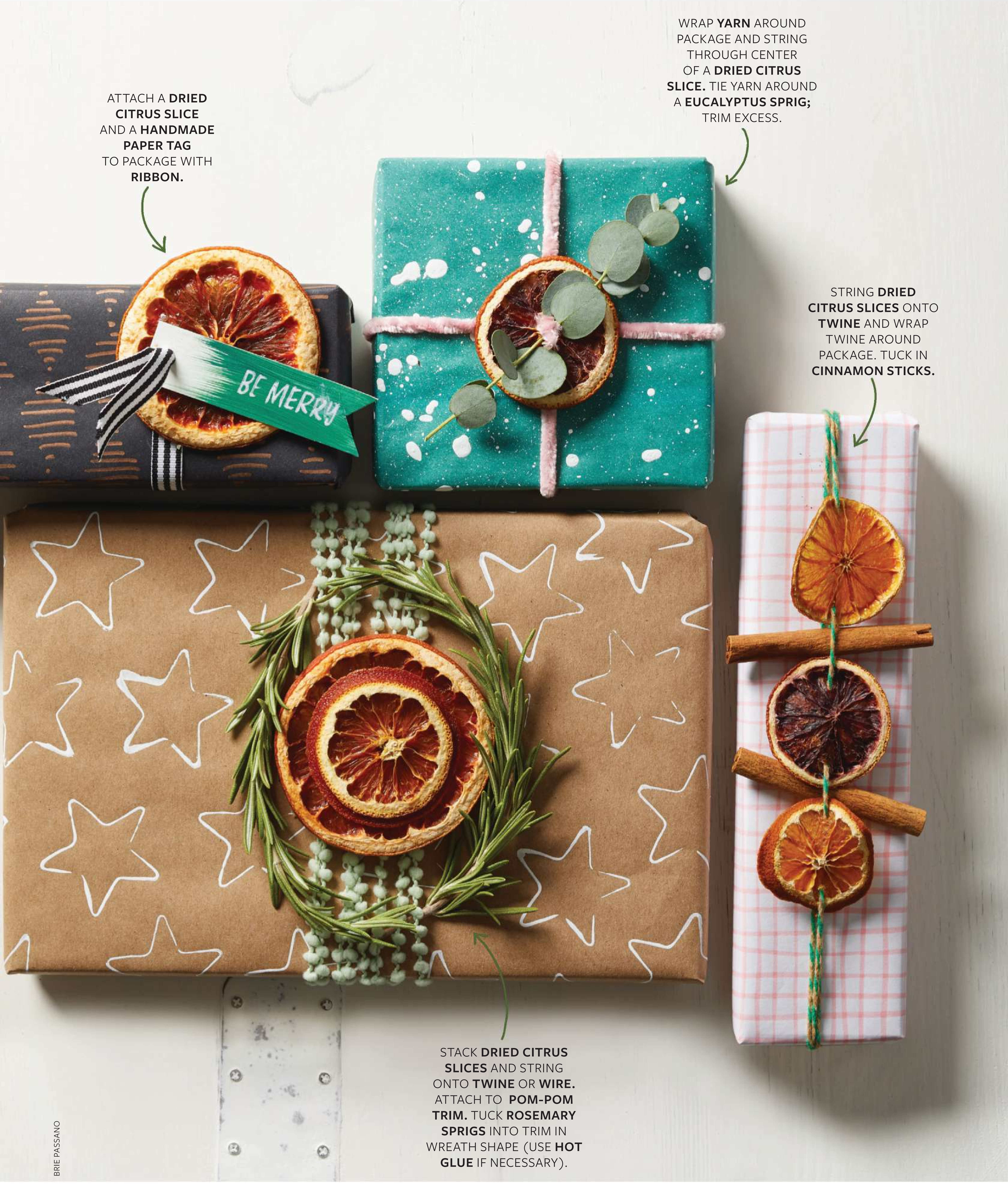
USE A **COOKIE CUTTER** TO PUNCH STARS FROM **LEMON AND ORANGE PEELS**. STRING WITH **DRIED CITRUS SLICES.**

PAINT **WOOD BEADS** WITH **ACRYLIC PAINT.** STRING BEADS AND **DRIED CITRUS SLICES** ONTO **TWINE.** WRAP GARLAND WITH **LEAF RIBBON.**

STRINGING ALONG

When making garland, wrap one end of twine, cord, or ribbon with tape (any kind will do). It will give you a stiff end for easier stringing.

BRIE PASSANO



ATTACH A **DRIED CITRUS SLICE** AND A **HANDMADE PAPER TAG** TO PACKAGE WITH **RIBBON.**

WRAP **YARN** AROUND PACKAGE AND STRING THROUGH CENTER OF A **DRIED CITRUS SLICE.** TIE YARN AROUND A **EUCALYPTUS SPRIG;** TRIM EXCESS.

STRING **DRIED CITRUS SLICES** ONTO **TWINE** AND WRAP TWINE AROUND PACKAGE. TUCK IN **CINNAMON STICKS.**

STACK **DRIED CITRUS SLICES** AND STRING ONTO **TWINE** OR **WIRE.** ATTACH TO **POM-POM TRIM.** TUCK **ROSEMARY SPRIGS** INTO TRIM IN WREATH SHAPE (USE **HOT GLUE** IF NECESSARY).

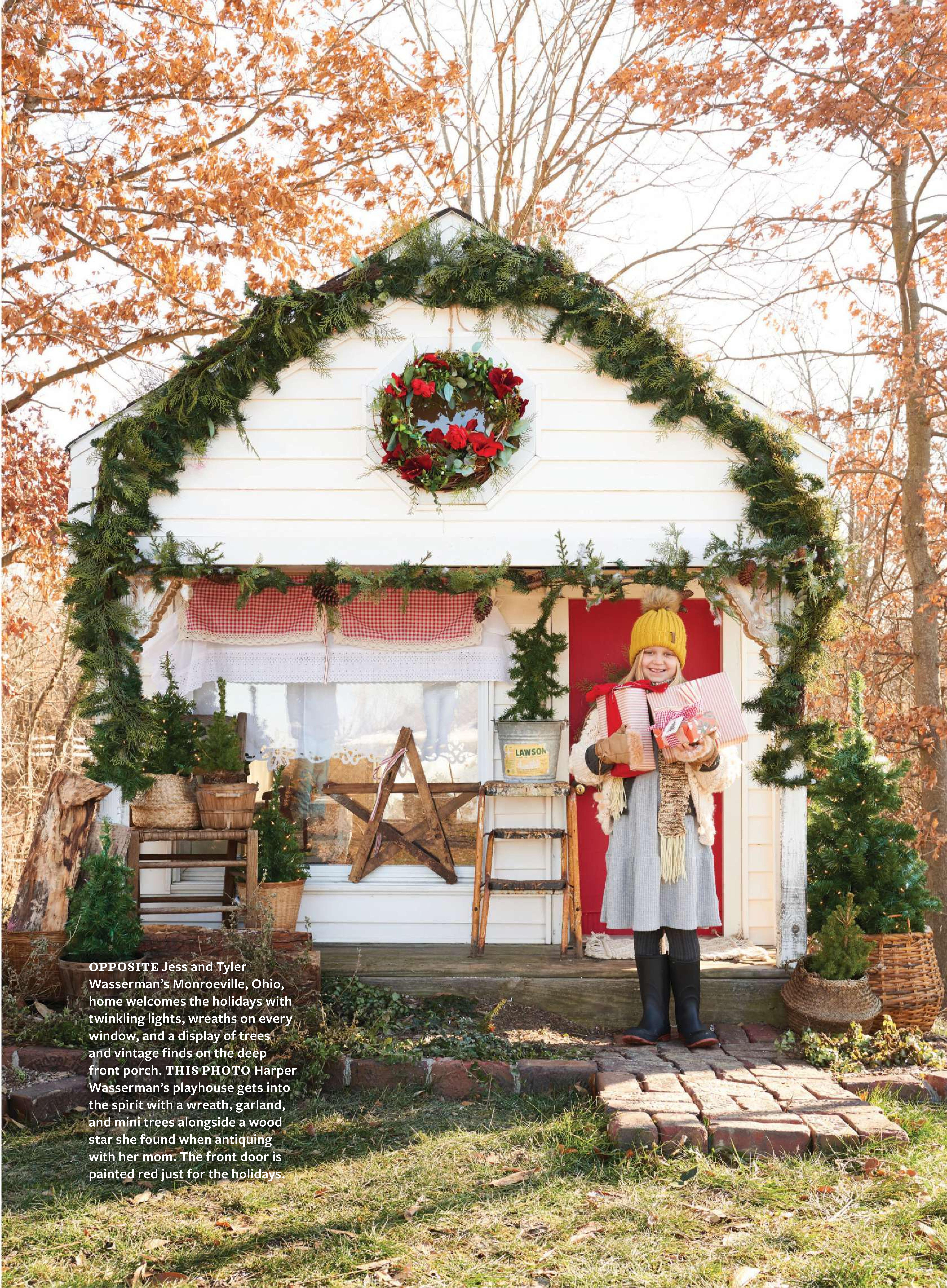
BRIE PASSANO

ANCESTOR'S
ATTIC
ANTIQUES

CHRISTMAS from the heart

Like a scene from a Norman Rockwell painting, the Wasserman family celebrates the most wonderful time of the year with age-old traditions alongside unforgettable modern touches.

Styled & written by **LACEY HOWARD** Photography by **JAY WILDE**



OPPOSITE Jess and Tyler Wasserman's Monroeville, Ohio, home welcomes the holidays with twinkling lights, wreaths on every window, and a display of trees and vintage finds on the deep front porch. **THIS PHOTO** Harper Wasserman's playhouse gets into the spirit with a wreath, garland, and mini trees alongside a wood star she found when antiquing with her mom. The front door is painted red just for the holidays.

WHEN JESS WASSERMAN'S SON DISCOVERED A LOVE FOR LOCAL CORN ON THE COB AFTER YEARS of an anti-veggie diet, she gave Reid a blown-glass ear-of-corn Christmas ornament. And when her daughter, who loves to pick berries, learned to make jam, Harper received a strawberry ornament. Giving each member of her family a memorial ornament each Christmas is one of Jess' favorite holiday traditions. Second favorite: handing out each family member's box full of those annual ornaments when they decorate the large tree in the living room. "Everyone takes their box and unwraps the ornaments," Jess says. "It is exciting to see them all again and talk about the memories."

While the living room tree holds the memorial ornaments, Jess and her husband, Tyler, make a concerted effort to create and display Christmas memories in every nook and cranny of their home. Three sets of Christmas cards are clipped onto ribbons: The current year's cards received from others are strung across the living room windows; their own family's annual cards, starting with Jess and Tyler's first Christmas together, hang at the kitchen sink; and vintage cards adorn the breakfast nook. A View-Master toy rests on the living room coffee table with holiday reels to scroll through. "I love to display unexpected, fun things like that," Jess says, noting that a nearby crate is filled with sheet music of Christmas songs. "Those are conversation pieces that spark memories for our friends and visitors."

Jess' own Christmas memories keep her holiday decorating focused on classic trimmings such as wreaths on every window, garlands draped across the mantel and swagged along the stairway banister, and a toy train that circles the base of the tree. "I am inspired by what Mom did when I was growing up and holding on to those traditions," Jess says. "One of the big things she always did was put holiday music on the record player. The Carpenters' Christmas record was a big one!" Keeping the memory alive, the Wassermans have a record player that they pull out with the holiday decor, "and we pull out the records—Elvis and The Carpenters—and play them. It makes me really happy," Jess says.

Then there's the baking. "Mom would let each of us pick our favorite cookie or treat, and we would help her make that," she says. "I do that now, too." Jess spends time with all three of her children making peanut butter blossoms and chocolate chow mein clusters and decorating sugar cookies. "We all do it together and there are treats out all the time!" For Jess, it is all part of creating "an old-fashioned Christmas that feels cozy and warm," she says—and memories of all the heartwarming sights, fresh-baked scents, and holiday sounds—for her family. ✳

The toy train enjoys a place of pride under the tree every year where it chugs and plays music as it loops the track. “The kids love it,” Jess says. “My oldest, Reid, got it from Santa on his first Christmas.” The tree (a large faux, prelit European fir) includes all their annual memorial ornaments and “stuff the kids have made, plus a few ornaments from Ty’s and my childhood,” Jess says. “It’s an array of lots of stuff and colors. There’s not a theme, but it feels like Christmas to me.” Purchased strands of popcorn and homemade garlands of dried oranges drape the branches.

* * *

> “MY CHRISTMAS IS A MIX OF OLD AND NEW, KEEPING VINTAGE ELEMENTS AND ADDING IN NEW TRADITIONS.”
>
> —JESS WASSERMAN, HOMEOWNER

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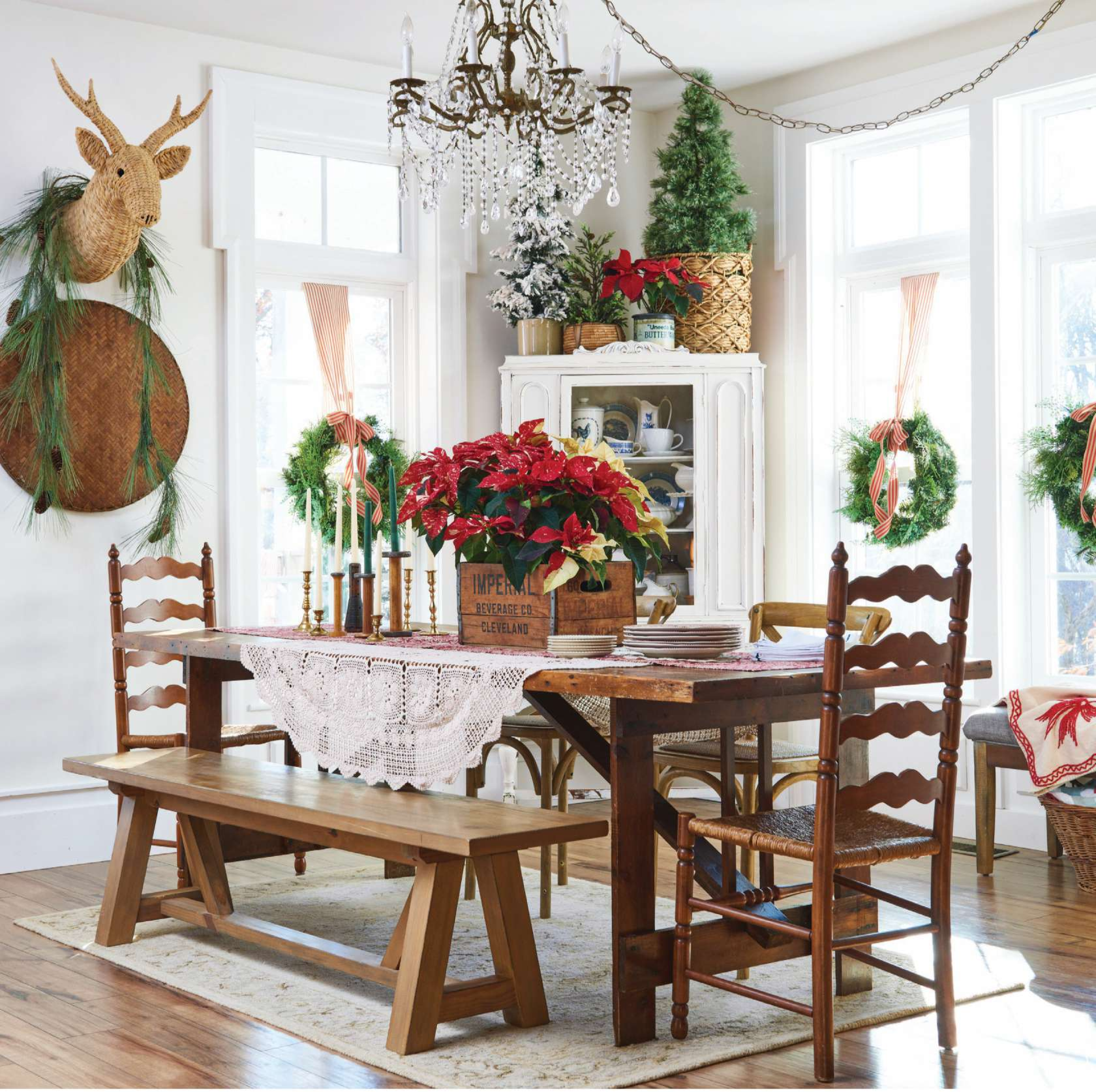
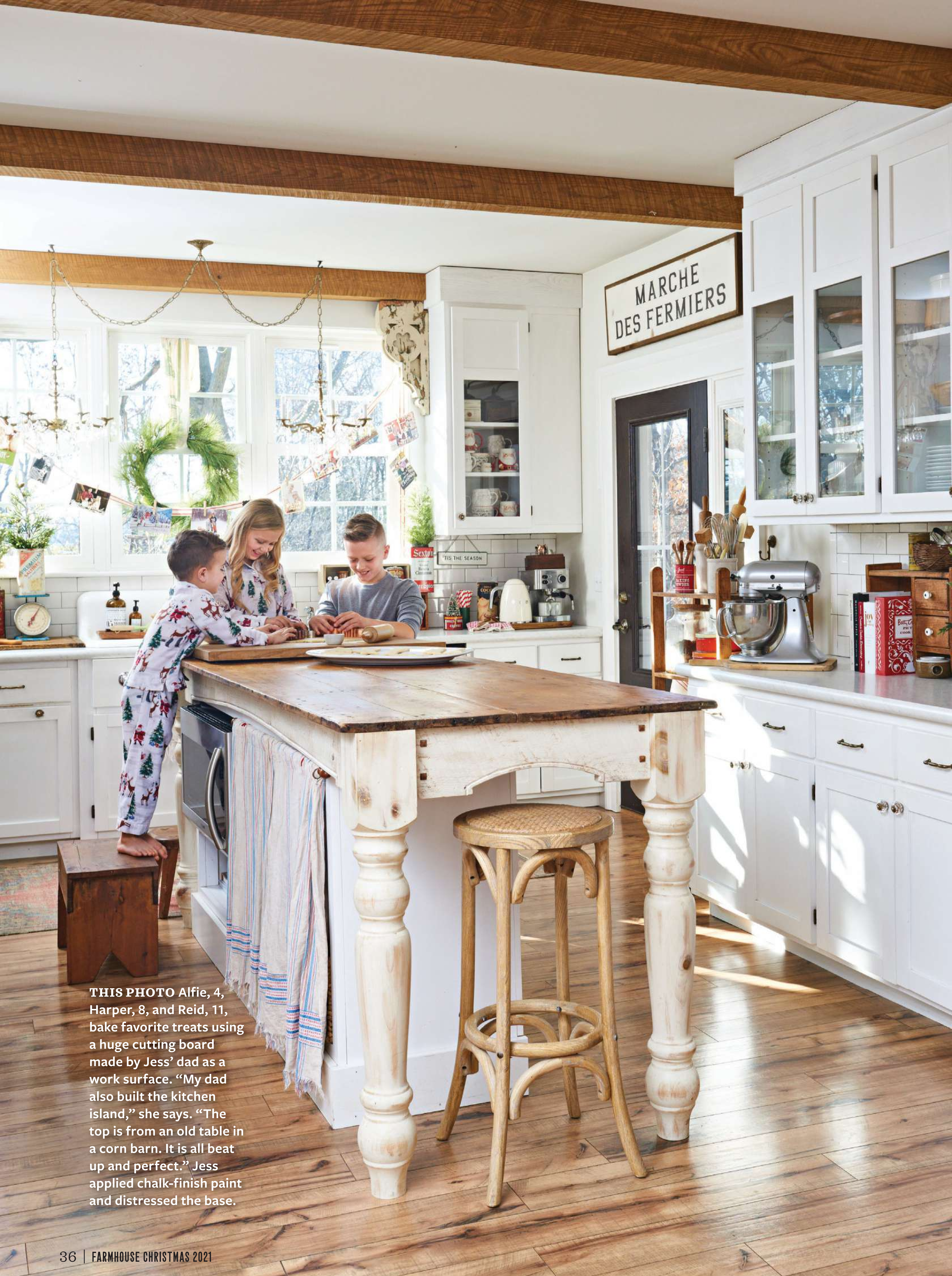


OPPOSITE TOP The front door practically sings with Christmas spirit. "I try to decorate the front of the house while the kids are at school and turn all the lights on before I pick them up in the afternoon. It gets dark early, so when we get home it is glowing and they are so excited," Jess says. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM** The potting area right outside the kitchen door is the perfect place for making a wreath or bringing in greens, Jess says. "It is pretty but also very functional." **ABOVE** The family dines around an old harvest table Jess found on Facebook Marketplace. After opening gifts on Christmas morning, the Wassermans enjoy what Jess calls "a fancy brunch." They set the table with special dishes ("I only pull out those dishes for Christmas Eve dinner and Christmas brunch," she says), glassware, napkins, and candlesticks. "A few of the brass ones are from Ty's family and a few are wooden spools," Jess says.

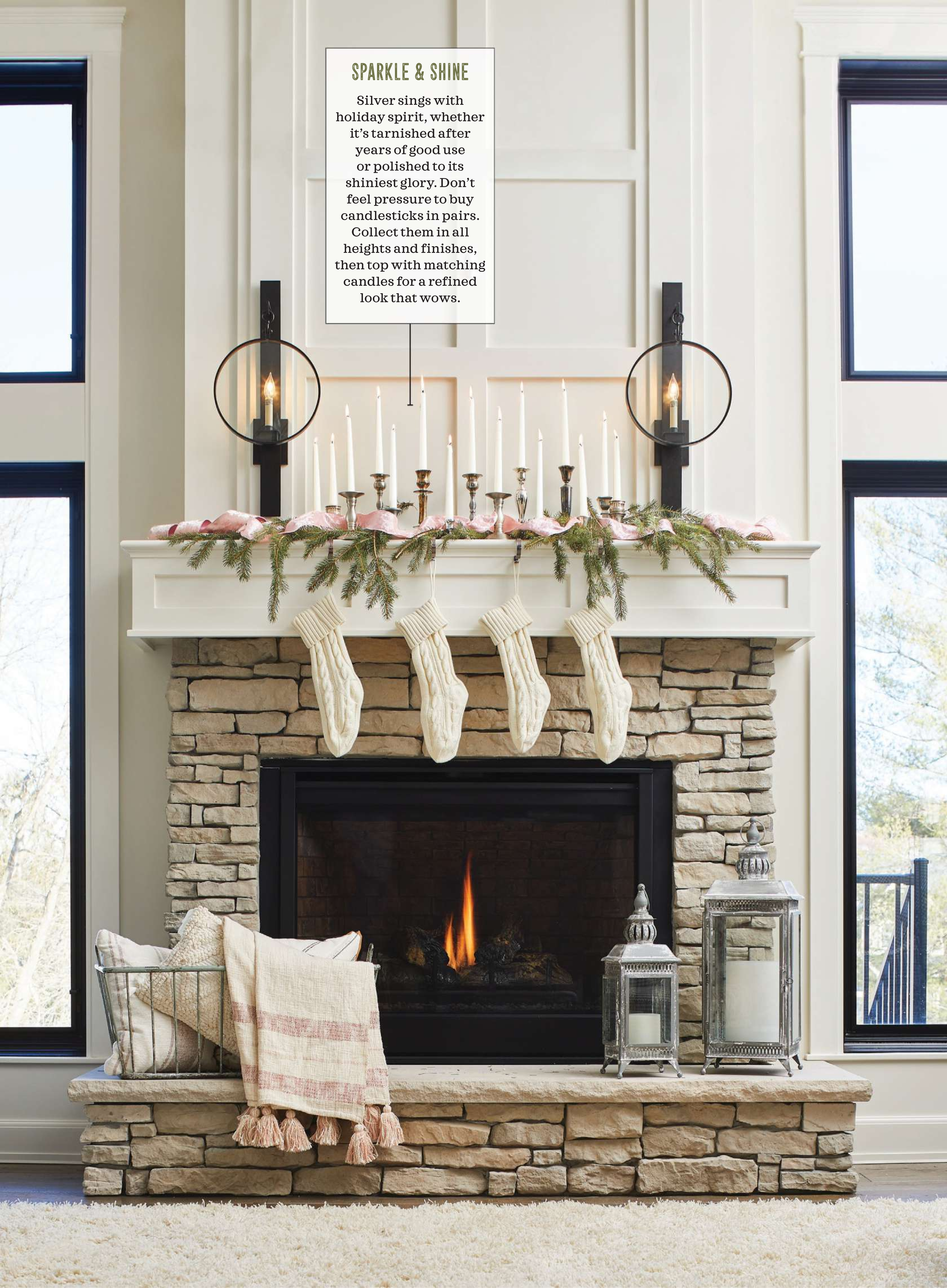


THIS PHOTO Alfie, 4, Harper, 8, and Reid, 11, bake favorite treats using a huge cutting board made by Jess' dad as a work surface. "My dad also built the kitchen island," she says. "The top is from an old table in a corn barn. It is all beat up and perfect." Jess applied chalk-finish paint and distressed the base.

LEFT Above the kitchen's 1937 Kohler rolled-rim cast-iron sink, a ribbon displays the family's Christmas cards from oldest (when it was just Jess and Tyler before kids) to newest. **BELOW LEFT** A chalkboard in the breakfast nook used to hang in Jess' grandparents' home. "I can't tell you how many games of school my cousins and I played on this chalkboard," she says. "The frame still smells like their basement, and that makes my heart so happy." **BOTTOM LEFT** Baking and decorating cookies is a Wasserman holiday tradition. **BELOW** Jess, who posts on Instagram @jesswasserman, makes special efforts to continue traditions from her and her husband's childhoods. One from Tyler's is having a puzzle in process during the holidays.

> “THE KIDS GET HOLIDAY SHEETS ON THEIR BEDS, CHRISTMAS JAMMIES, AND EACH OF THEM HAS A TREE IN THEIR ROOM.”
>
> —JESS WASSERMAN

OPPOSITE The family’s Cavachons, Duffy and Dilly, keep watch for Santa’s arrival. The stairway’s garland, Jess says, starts with “a generic faux garland as the base. Then I build off that by tucking in magnolia leaves and real evergreens.” She ties the garland in place with ribbons she makes herself. “I cut fabric into big long strips,” she says. “I buy a bunch of yards and make a small cut and rip it so I get a frayed edge. I want it to be drapey and long and flowy and not too perfect or stiff.” **ABOVE** Harper’s room and white flocked tree are decorated as extensions of her personality—colorful and bright. **RIGHT** Jess changes the duvet and pillow covers on her bed with the season. “The plates on the wall stay the same year-round, but the pillows are only red for Christmas,” Jess says. “Ty and I don’t have Christmas sheets like the kids. We need some!”



SPARKLE & SHINE

Silver sings with holiday spirit, whether it’s tarnished after years of good use or polished to its shiniest glory. Don’t feel pressure to buy candlesticks in pairs. Collect them in all heights and finishes, then top with matching candles for a refined look that wows.

THE MAGIC OF THE *holiday* MANTEL

Produced & written by **KRISSA ROSSBUND**
Photography by **MARTY BALDWIN**

There's more than one way to address a Christmas mantel. In fact, we found three ways to style a classic stone fireplace and its hefty cap. Each one is ready and waiting in holiday glory to welcome Santa.

Christmas Whisper

Christmas palettes don't have to be overt. Interior decoration can take a pause on the bolds and brights while still maintaining the festive spirit during the season that offers plenty of stimulation through light shows, baked goods, and caroling neighbors. Saturated red takes a pause for a more subdued version, woven into the vignette on a tassel-sporting striped blanket that's at the ready in a wire basket with a couple of pillows for extra comfort around the fire. But the color surprise comes from pink velvet ribbon that weaves between silver candlesticks. Cable-knit stockings suggest frigid temperatures and reason to stay close to the fire.

Candlestick Classics
The flicker of candles casts the glow of wonderment and warmth throughout a home. Traditional silver candlesticks will be treasured for generations.

Pink Ribbon
Ribbon, especially velvet, is an expected staple at Christmas. Find one in an unexpected color to bring fashion to the aesthetics.

Seasonal Greens Branch out to your local nursery or take a stroll through your own backyard for green from Mother Nature.

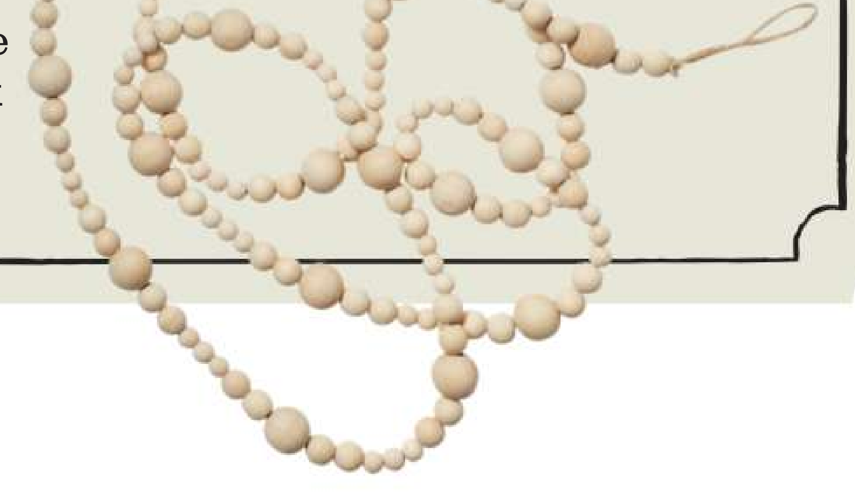
Fresh and Festive

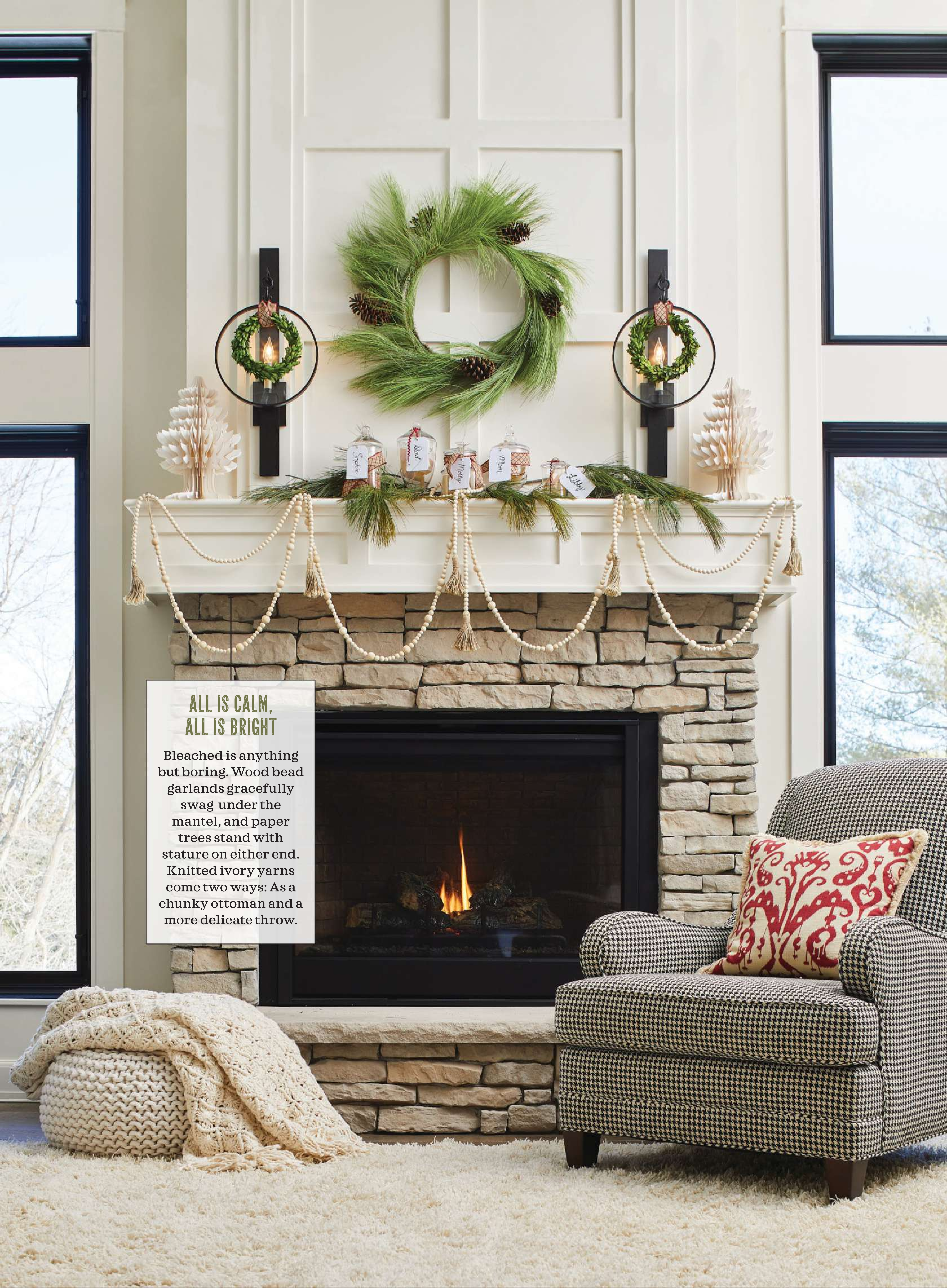
No color denotes the idea of fresh quite like green. And come Christmastime, boxwood, pine, and fir happily deliver the raw goods for a vignette that hints at the outdoors and a crisp walk through the woods—without the heavy puffer coat. Above the mantel, long pine needles fashioned over a wire frame make the central wreath, while more formal and tailored boxwood wreaths take up residence on the sconces. Sprigs of pine also tuck among glass canisters filled with Christmas wishes from each member of the family. Some are personal, some are for the others, but all emphasize the spirit of Christmas.

Paper Trees Tree-line your decorative holiday vision with multiple sizes, shapes, and materials from wood, metal, and paper, like these textural forms.

Timeless Tags Find tags with longevity. Weathered wood tags with twine ties are sturdy and can be used year after year. Pen names in black or gold.

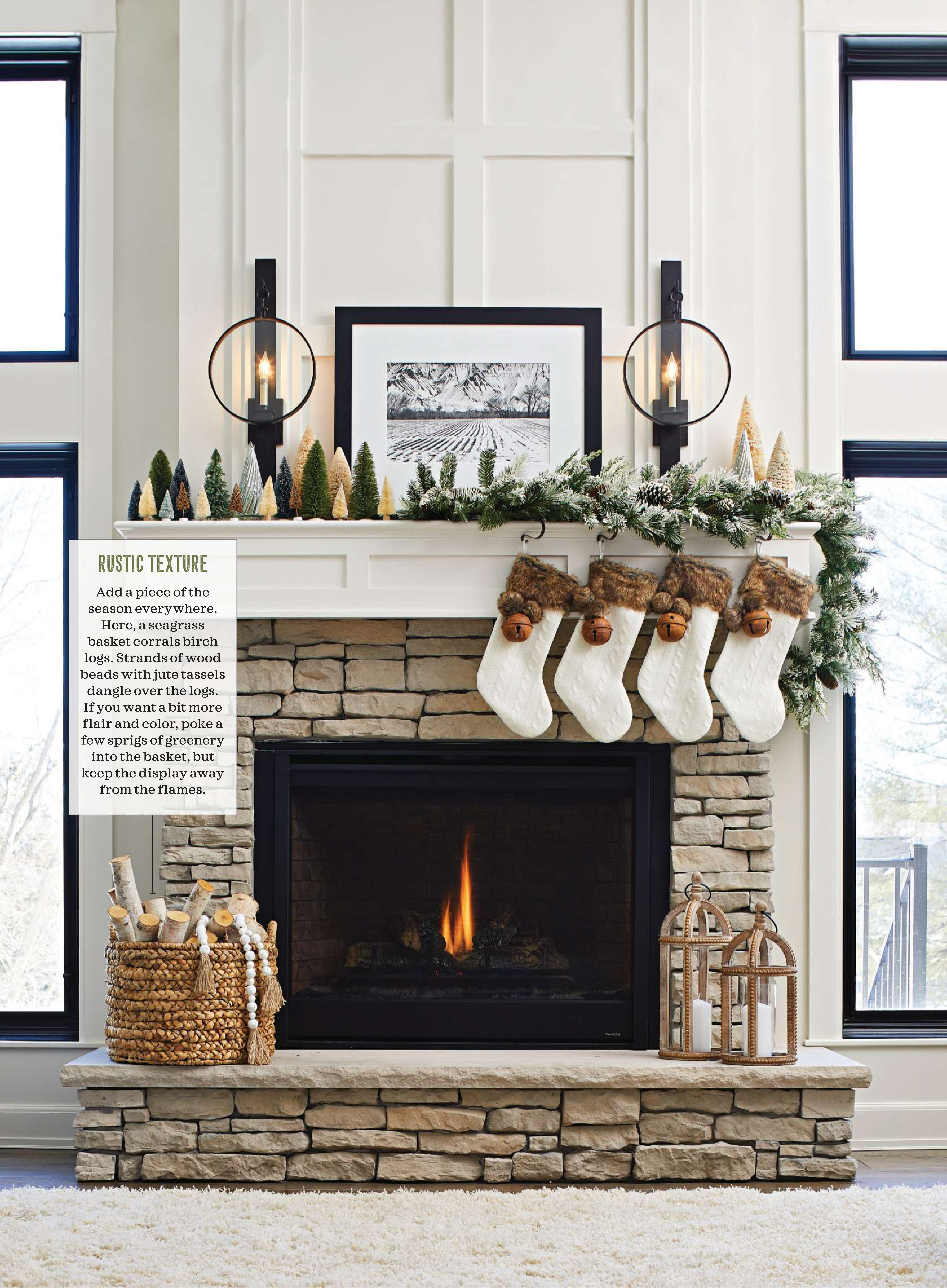
Beaded Garlands Like a necklace with a little black dress, beaded garlands are elegant, light, and avoid the bulk and weight of a greenery swag.




Sophie
Dad
Molly
Mom
Libby

ALL IS CALM, ALL IS BRIGHT

Bleached is anything but boring. Wood bead garlands gracefully swag under the mantel, and paper trees stand with stature on either end. Knitted ivory yarns come two ways: As a chunky ottoman and a more delicate throw.



RUSTIC TEXTURE

Add a piece of the season everywhere. Here, a seagrass basket corrals birch logs. Strands of wood beads with jute tassels dangle over the logs. If you want a bit more flair and color, poke a few sprigs of greenery into the basket, but keep the display away from the flames.

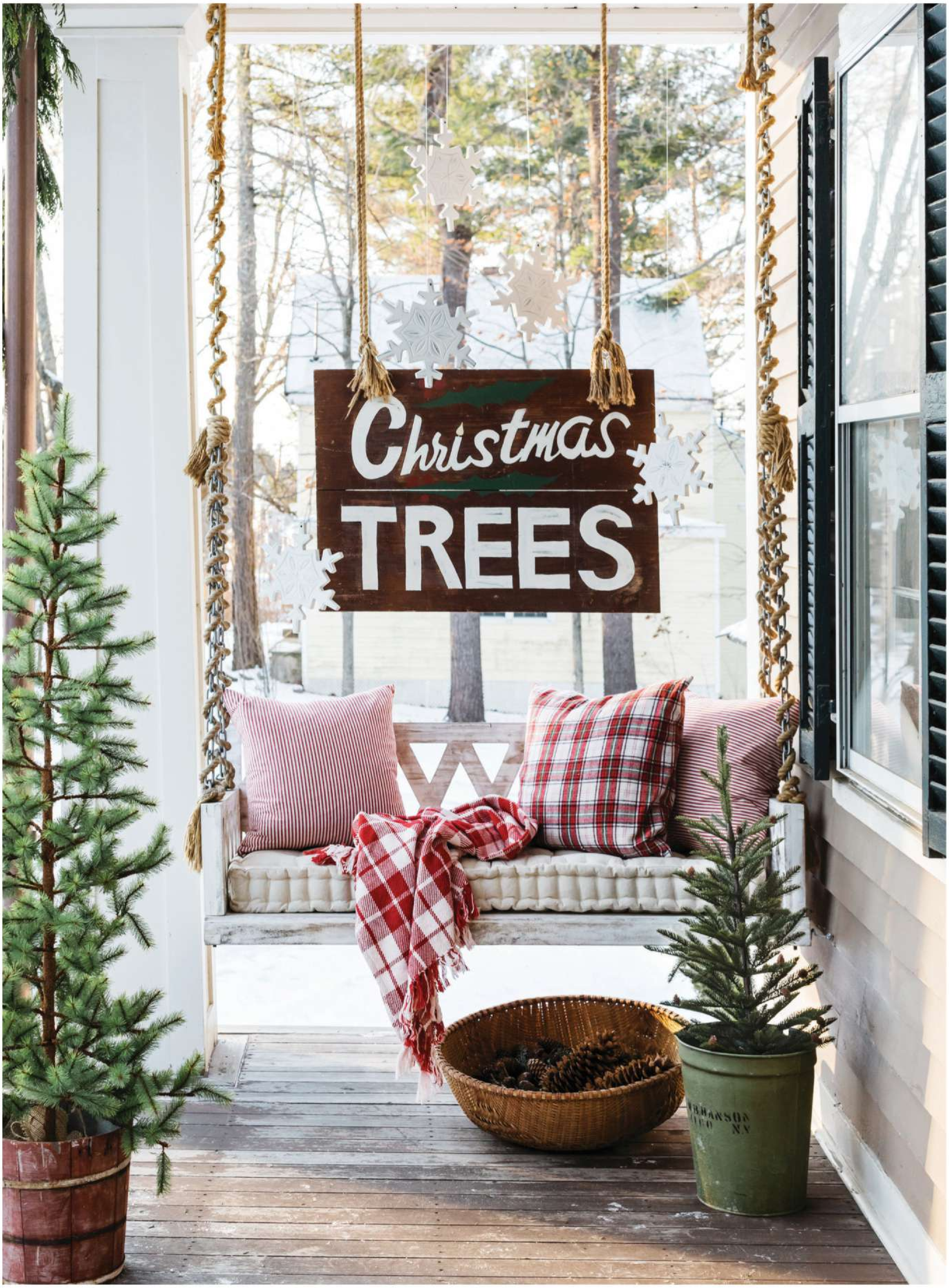
Offset Elegance

Symmetry may be the easy and pleasing way to construct a vignette, but asymmetry is a sure way to dazzle. For a flip on classic architecture that is well-measured with equal proportions anchoring its stature, this decorative approach goes off-kilter. The pair of sconces and the framed black-and-white photograph that peeks at a mountain range is set for a bit of surprise. A forest of bottle-brush trees in shades of green and cream grows on one side of the mantel, while a flocked garland sprinkled with pinecones drapes the opposite edge. Rustic bells are tied to stockings with fur cuffs that hang on only one side of the mantel, playing up the asymmetrical setting.

Bottle-Brush Trees
Buy in multiples sizes, and go monochromatic or coordinate colors. Because they are lightweight and easy to store, the more the merrier.

Star-Studded Bells Christmas doesn't want to only be seen. It wants to be heard, too. These bells ring with stars pierced into the rustic metal.

Stocking Style
Select stockings that reflect the environment. For a cold climate, sweater-style stockings with fur cuffs will keep the look cozy.

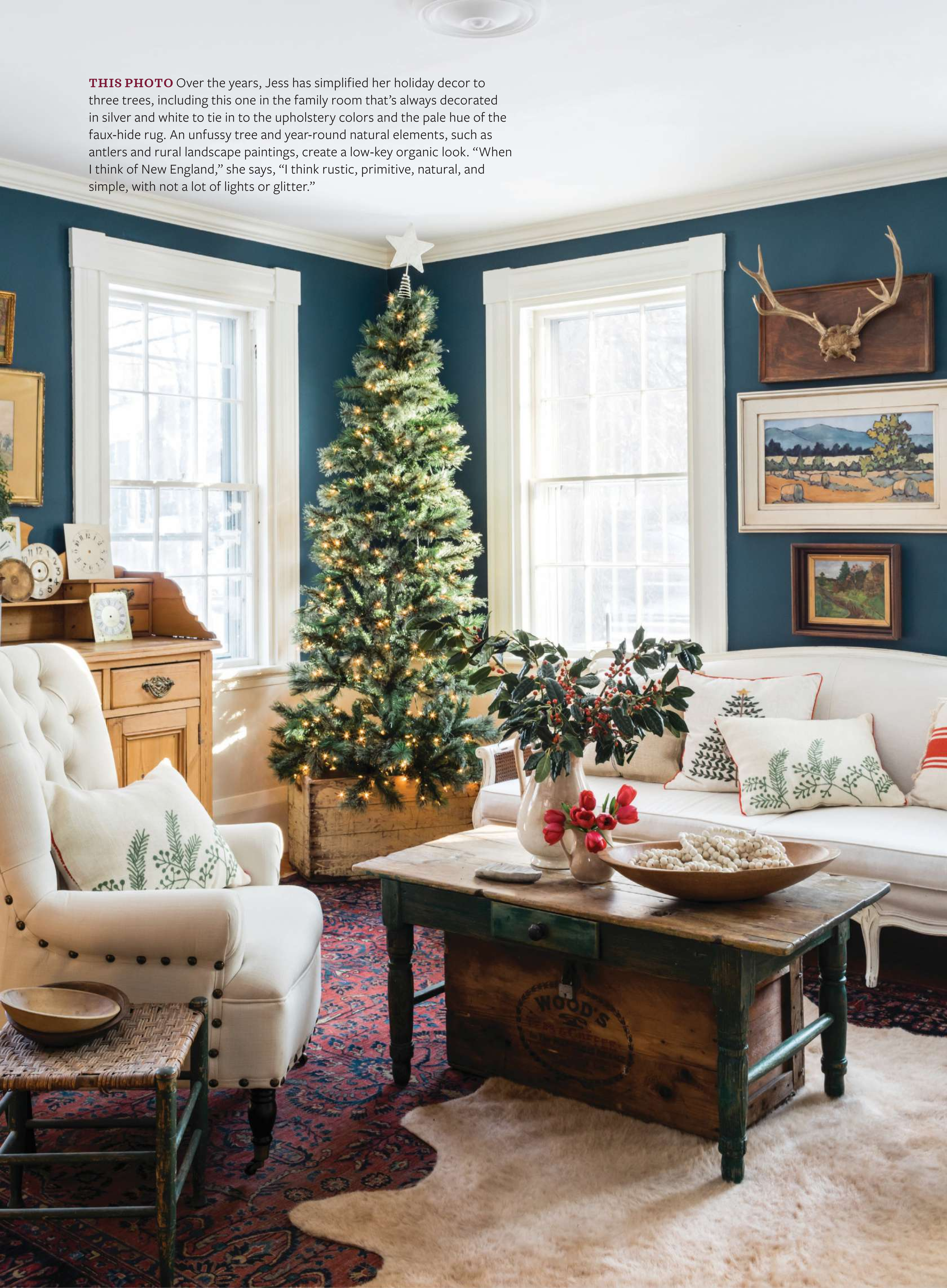


THIS PHOTO The front porch swing gets use even on snowy days thanks to a warm wool lap blanket. Homeowner Jess Noble collects signage that is truly vintage or made to look that way, like this sign a friend painted for her on reclaimed wood. **OPPOSITE** With views of the snowy landscape in the backyard, these reading chairs are a popular spot. Jess prefers upholstery to be muted in color and pattern, and she uses antique rugs and weathered woods, such as the tall interior shutters, to provide dimension and patina. “I think all those textural details work to make a space cozy and lived in,” she says. “I am also drawn to the history behind pieces that are unique.”

style EVOLUTION

The path to an expressive personal style has been a winding one for this Massachusetts homeowner, but by following the lead of her historical farmhouse, she makes Christmas Day—and every day—simple, beautiful, and cozy.

Styled by **KARIN LIDBECK-BRENT**
Photography by **JOYELLE WEST** Written by **SARAH EGGE**



THIS PHOTO Over the years, Jess has simplified her holiday decor to three trees, including this one in the family room that's always decorated in silver and white to tie in to the upholstery colors and the pale hue of the faux-hide rug. An unfussy tree and year-round natural elements, such as antlers and rural landscape paintings, create a low-key organic look. "When I think of New England," she says, "I think rustic, primitive, natural, and simple, with not a lot of lights or glitter."

JESS NOBLE DIDN'T SET OUT TO PURSUE A COUNTRY AESTHETIC for her family's Sudbury, Massachusetts, home even though she and husband Griff each grew up in farmhouses in rural Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. She was scarred by the maroon walls and wildlife wallpaper borders of her youth. "I grew up in the '80s," she says. "My mom loved stenciling and collected mallard duck decoys." But Jess has always revered history and historical structures, so when the family moved into this 1840s New England farmhouse 10 years ago, Jess thought she would fall in step with the previous owner. "Her style was very Colonial farmhouse, with dark woods and lots of minimal, primitive pieces," Jess says. "It was gorgeous and inspiring to me, so I thought, *I'm going to do what she did and keep the house the same way.*"

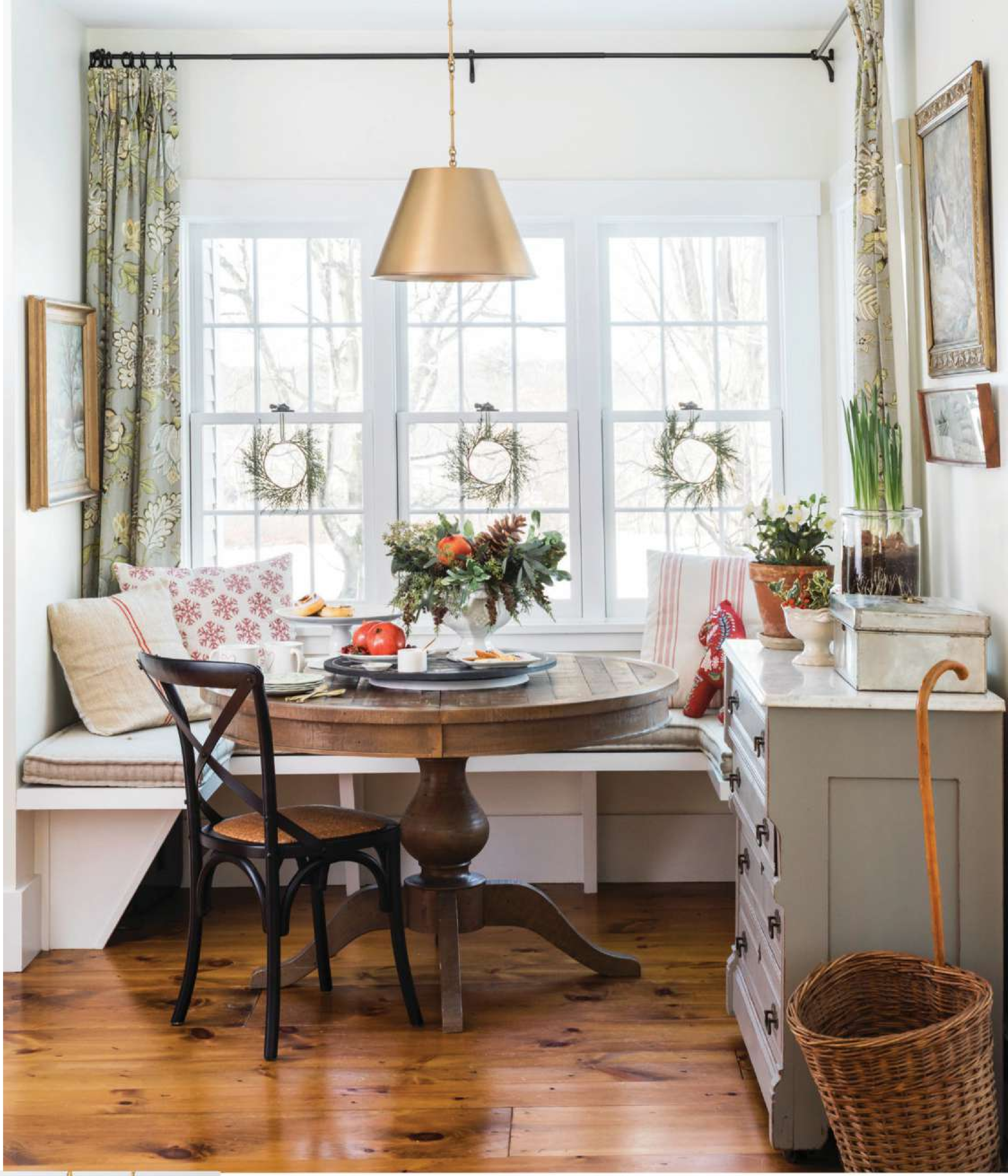
That lasted for a few years. "It just didn't work," Jess says. "It didn't fit me or our family." Five years ago, she and Griff embarked on a renovation to expand the house to accommodate their three growing children, and that's when Jess really started to find her way stylewise. "I went to Brimfield, Massachusetts, and the antiques dealers around here, and I started collecting things I love," she says.

The couple chose a white palette for most walls and woodwork to give the house a light, airy feeling. They preserved the wide-plank pine floors and historical features of the home, including original windows with the first family's names carved into the sashes. "When the renovation was complete, I started placing things and figuring out what works," Jess says. Her staples are New England artwork, vintage signage, handwoven rugs ("the 'holier' the better"), nubby European linens and upholstery, ironstone pottery, and large furniture pieces in scrubbed pine. Soon Jess had gathered the hallmarks of a simple, refined country style that suits the house perfectly. "My style is rooted in country," she says. "But I'm always changing the top layer. I stick with antiques I can decorate around."

That approach serves her well when the holidays arrive. As followers of her Instagram page (@uncommon.farmhouse) know, Jess relies on classic touches for her holiday decorating. She tosses plaid throws and pillows over the European linen upholstery, lines the scrubbed-pine surfaces with potted paperwhites, and sets brown-paper-wrapped packages on the wood floors and worn rugs under the Christmas trees. "I have a ton of vintage holiday artwork and prints and New England scenes and snowscapes, and I swap them in," she says. "I want Christmas to feel cozy. It's cold outside, and I want it to feel warm in here."

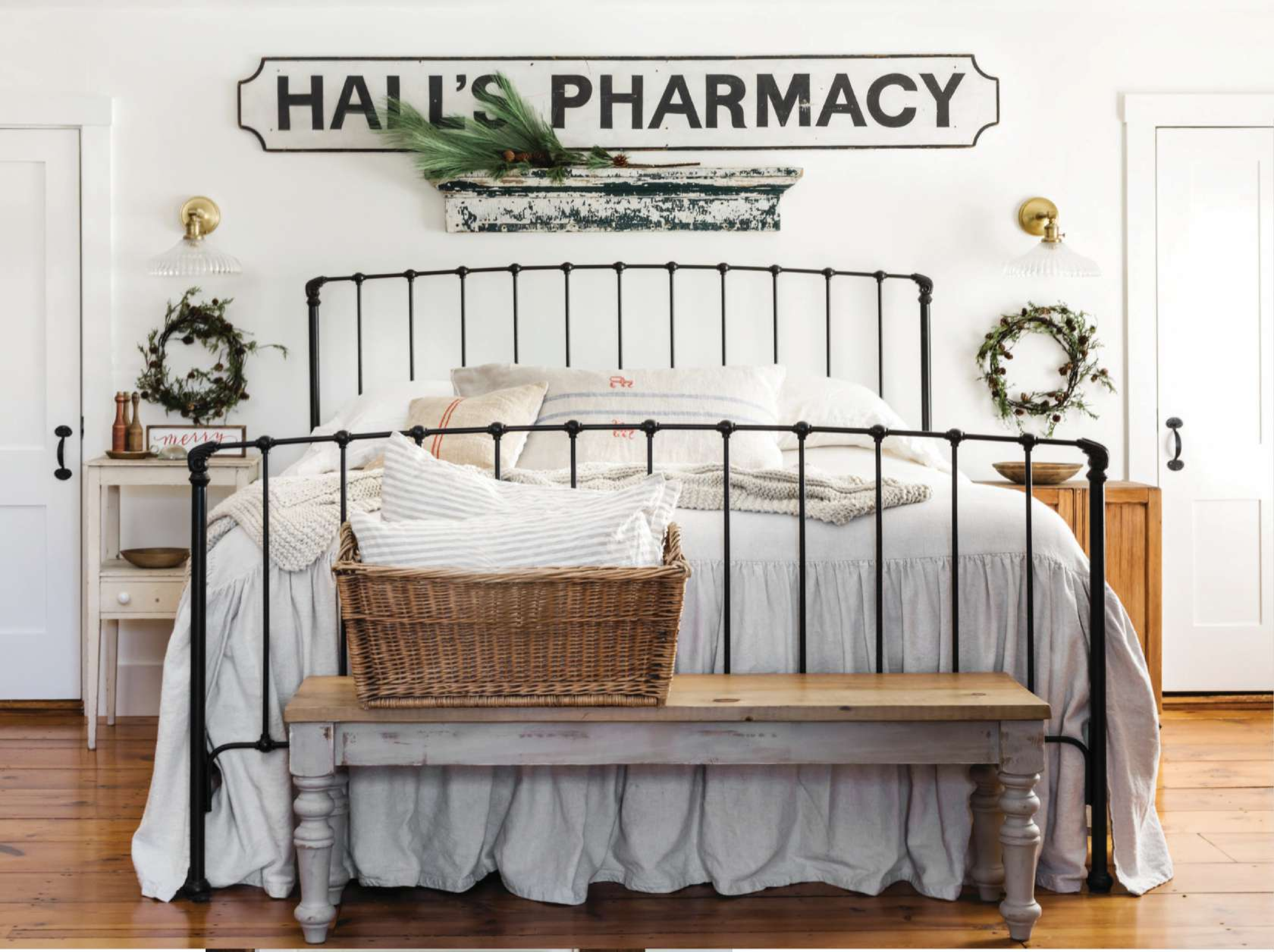
Like her decorating journey, her route to meaningful Christmas decor has taken some wrong turns, and Jess is happy to share them with her followers in funny, self-deprecating stories. "One year I did a whole tree in birds," she says. "That didn't go well because they camouflage in trees, so that was kind of a fail. One year I got really gung ho about fresh eucalyptus, but it sheds everywhere, and we had so many seeds stuck in our wood floors." So, as with all her previous lessons learned, she streamlined: "I try to not get sucked in to seasonal themes and stay true to my vision and my home's vision." ✳

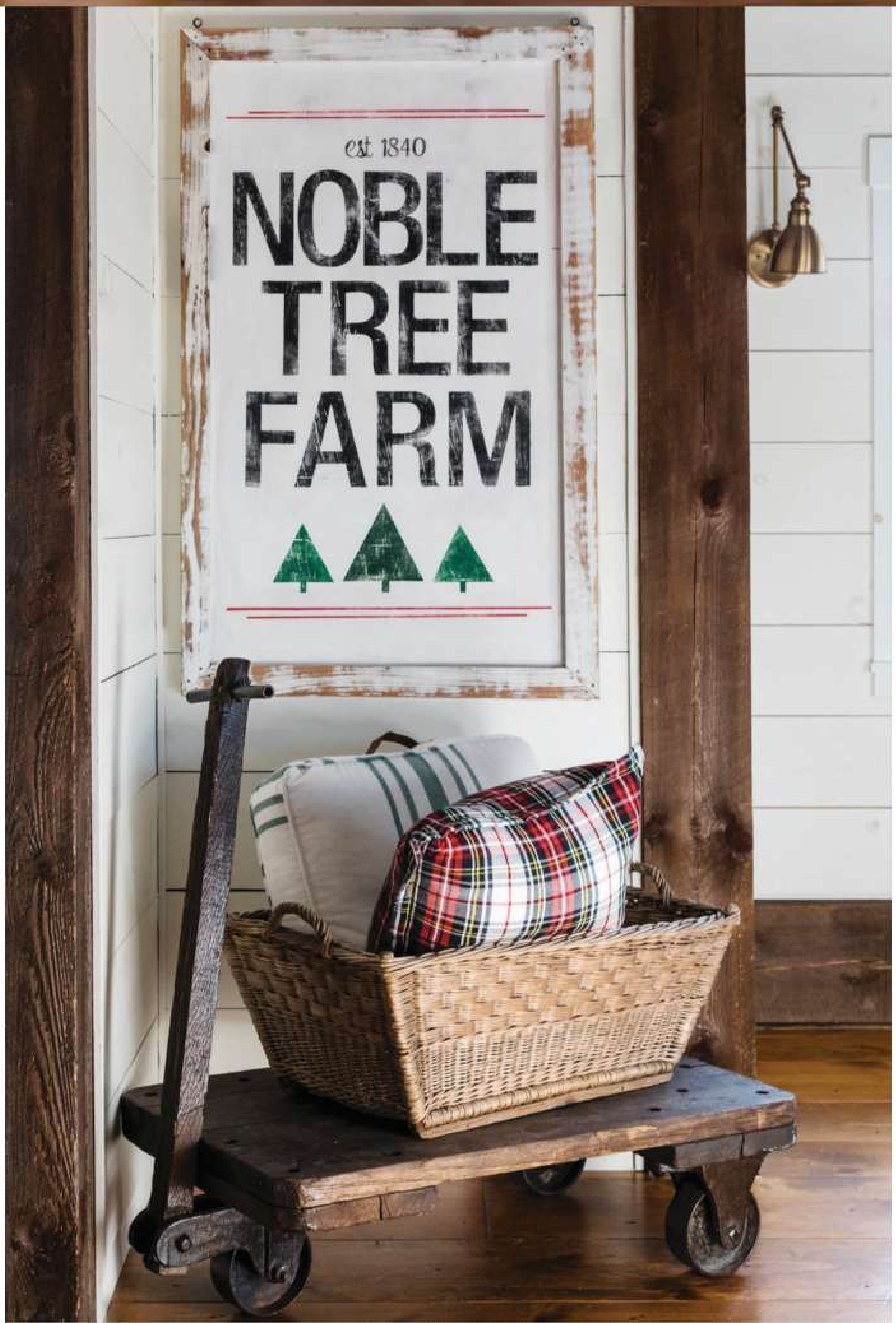
ABOVE LEFT Jess and Griff Noble wanted a historical home they could make their own. They treasure the Revolutionary War-era roots of the neighborhood and have preserved the house's innate rural New England style. **ABOVE** Vintage bottles hold branches clipped from the fir trees outside. The cabinet came from a menswear store; pullout shelves at the top were used to display ties. Pieces of an old hog fence in a seasonal shade of red display antique snowshoes.



OPPOSITE After seeing something similar in a catalog, Jess arranged green bottles—some found when they excavated for an addition—into a dining room centerpiece with candles and potted bulbs. "The bottles are an ode to a time we will never experience again thanks to plastic," she says. "They're just so cool." **RIGHT** Small wreaths deck the windows in the breakfast nook, where the table is set with fresh greens and fruit. In this new addition to the home, Griff and Jess emulated the wide-plank pine floors of the original house. A pillow covered in a vintage French flour sack joins other red-and-white pillows to bolster the subtle holiday palette. **BELOW** Expanding their kitchen was a priority when the couple remodeled. Their three kids love to hang out at the island and help roll out Christmas cookies or sip hot cocoa.

> "ALONG THE WAY, I'VE THOUGHT, OK, I'M GOING TO BE COLONIAL. NO, I'M BOHEMIAN. NO, I'M A NATURALIST, AND I'M GOING TO MAKE CURTAIN RODS OUT OF TREE BRANCHES. BUT THAT DIDN'T WORK. NOW I'VE GROWN INTO THE HOUSE, AND I GET IT."
>
> —JESS NOBLE, HOMEOWNER





ABOVE Jess' childhood dream to one day have an iron bed became a reality in the master bedroom (although not "with a canopy, per my preteen fantasies," she says). She dresses the bed in layers of new bedding of nubby European linens for vintage appeal. The antique sign came from a shop in New Hampshire. **LEFT** Jess trained as a fine art painter and used her skills to paint this personalized family sign. A factory cart holds a basket of cushions to complete the vignette. **OPPOSITE** To gain extra storage, Griff built in a bed with drawers, then added a cased opening to create a canopied effect. Colorful garland, pillows, and small mercury glass trees accessorize for the season.

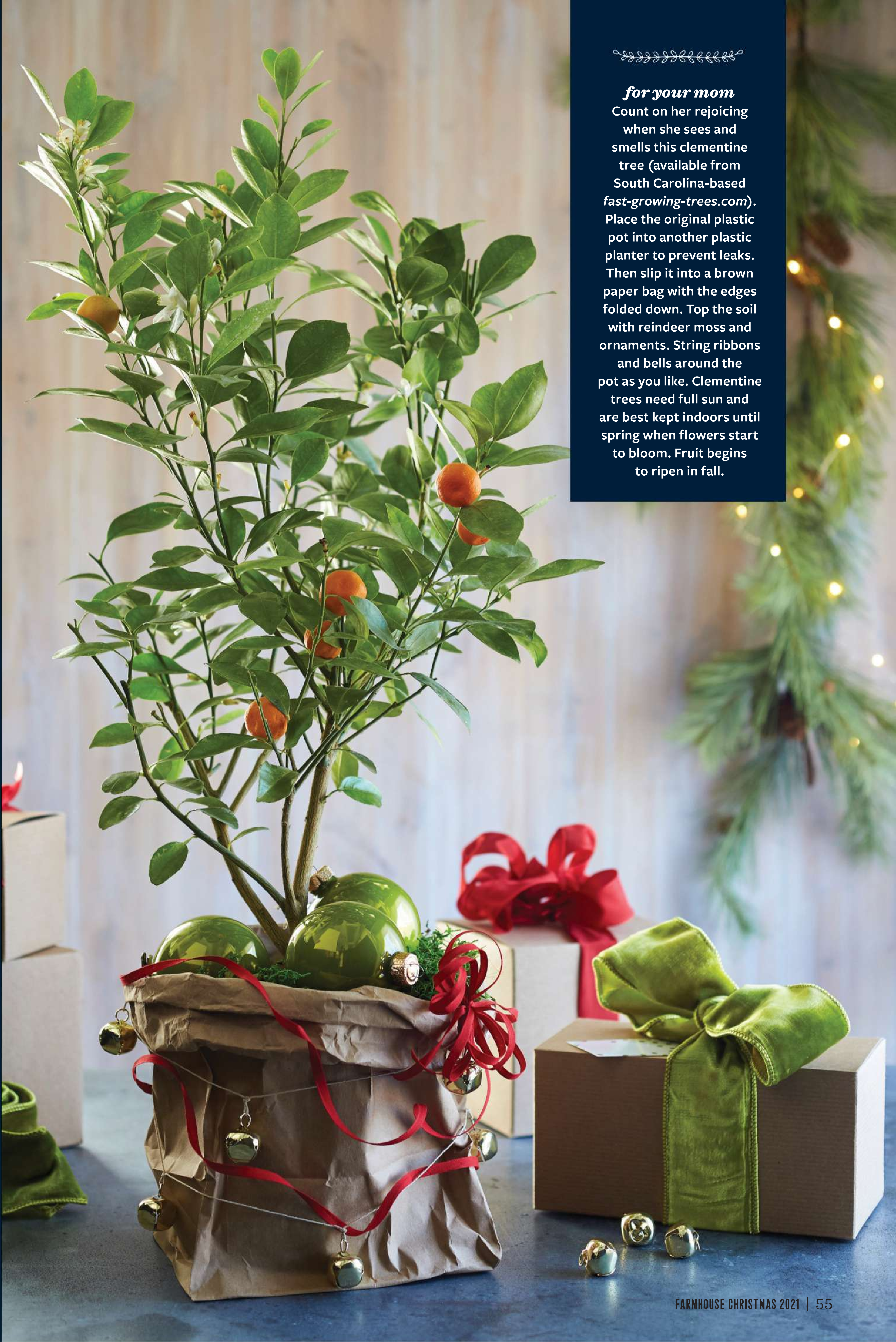
GARDEN DELIGHTS

Look to nature for gifts that outlast the holidays.

Photography by **HECTOR MANUEL SANCHEZ**
Written by **GRACE HAYNES**

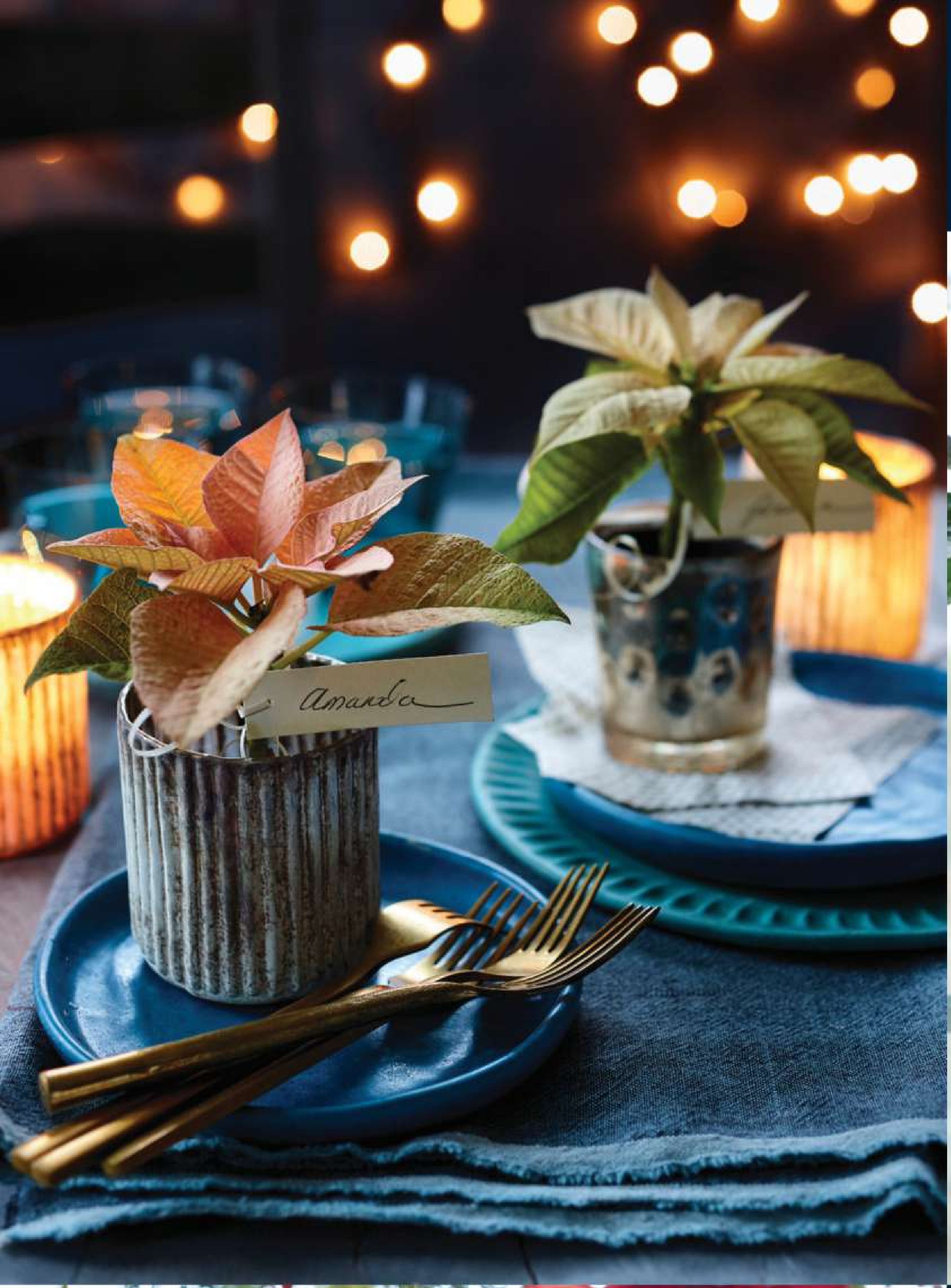
for your sister

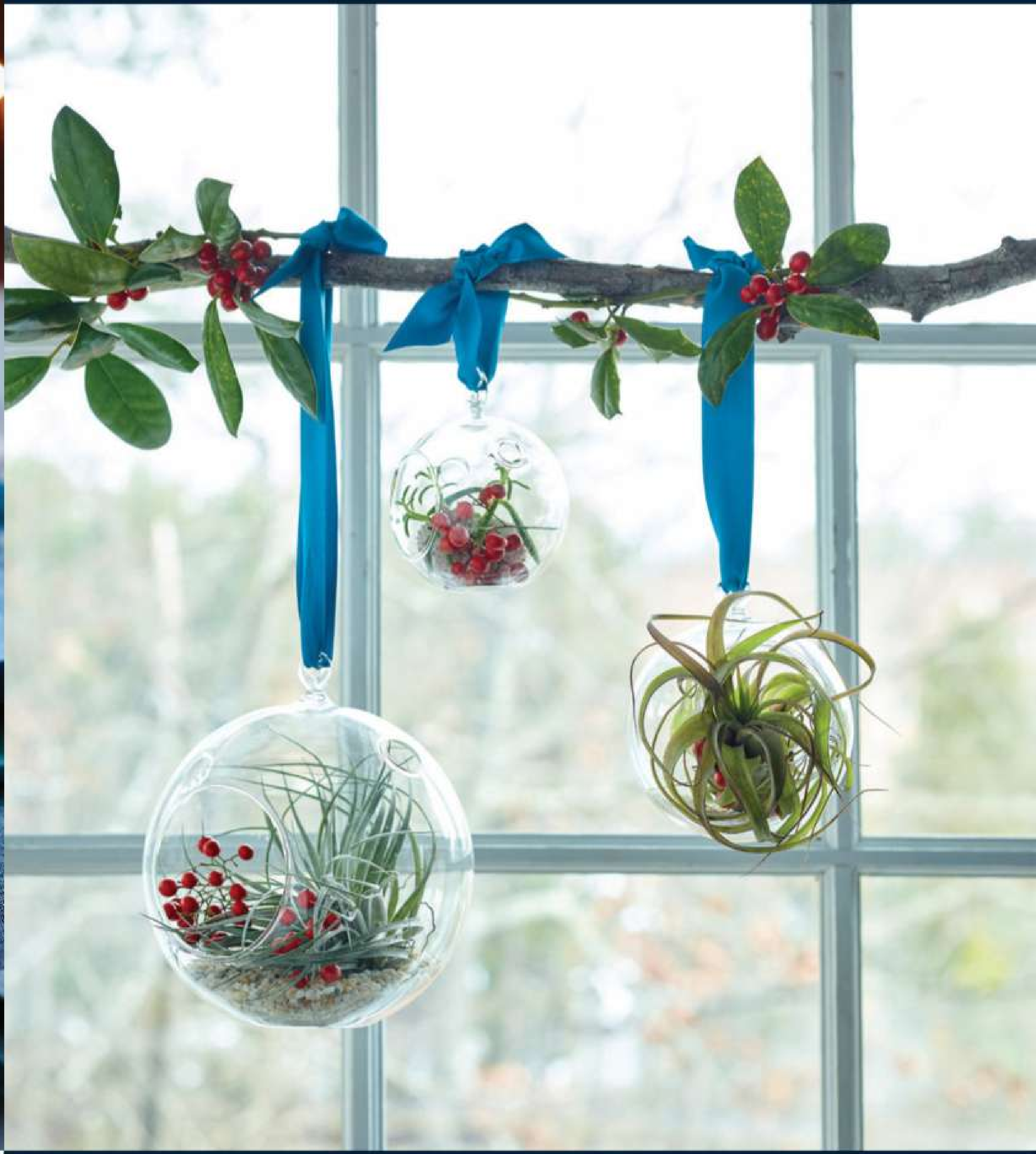
A bare amaryllis bulb looks nice with pretty packaging, but the real wow factor of this gift is watching it grow. Fill a clear plastic bag with pebbles (available at garden centers), place the bulb on top, tie the bag with a sparkly ribbon, and put it in a gift box (like this one from Paper Source). She can fill the plastic bag with water to the top of the pebbles, place the container in a sunny spot, and enjoy seeing this seasonal stunner bloom.

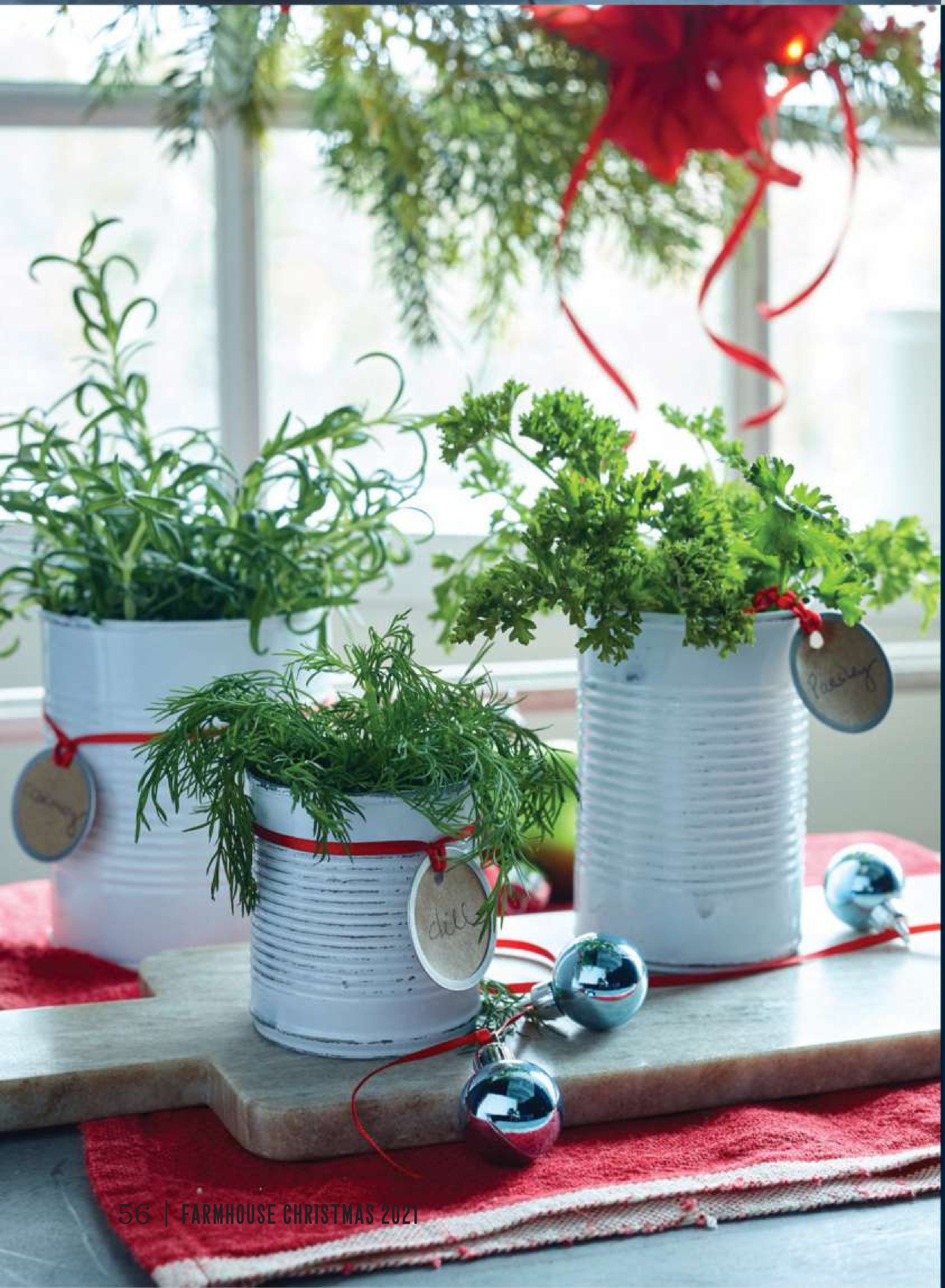


for your mom

Count on her rejoicing when she sees and smells this clementine tree (available from South Carolina-based *fast-growing-trees.com*). Place the original plastic pot into another plastic planter to prevent leaks. Then slip it into a brown paper bag with the edges folded down. Top the soil with reindeer moss and ornaments. String ribbons and bells around the pot as you like. Clementine trees need full sun and are best kept indoors until spring when flowers start to bloom. Fruit begins to ripen in fall.







for the supper club

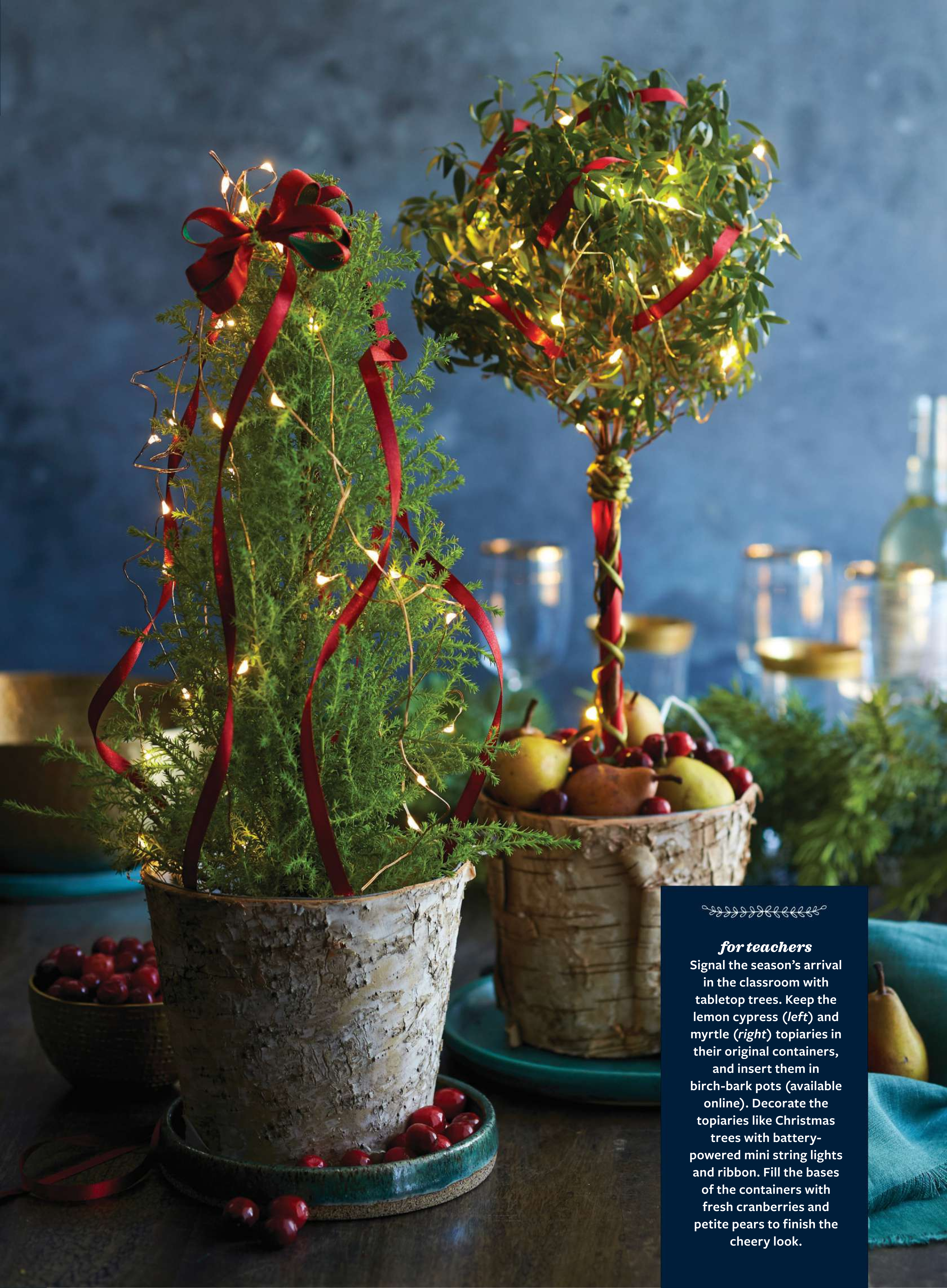
ABOVE LEFT: Hosting the group in December? Pick place cards that double as party favors. Find mini poinsettias in assorted colors at your local garden center. Keep the plants in their original plastic pots, and slip them into decorative votive holders. Gently attach name tags to the stems using ribbon, and set one at each place setting.

for your neighbors

LEFT: Deliver cans of freshly potted herbs like rosemary, dill, and parsley for holiday cooking. Drill or punch holes in the bottom of a can for drainage. Remove the label; spray-paint can white. Once dry, lightly sand to create a worn look. Fill with potting soil; add an herb. (Find ready-to-plant herbs at Trader Joe's or garden centers.) Attach labels with ribbon.

for coworkers

ABOVE: Bring ornaments to life with this new take on a terrarium. Air plants are available in a range of shapes and sizes at garden centers, and you can find hanging glass-globe terrariums on Amazon. Make a base for the air plants by placing moss, sand, or small pebbles in the bottom of the globes. For a tropical look, position air plants atop seashells. Add a sprig of red holly berries for a festive touch. The globes can be hung from decorative ribbon in a spot that gets full, indirect sunlight.



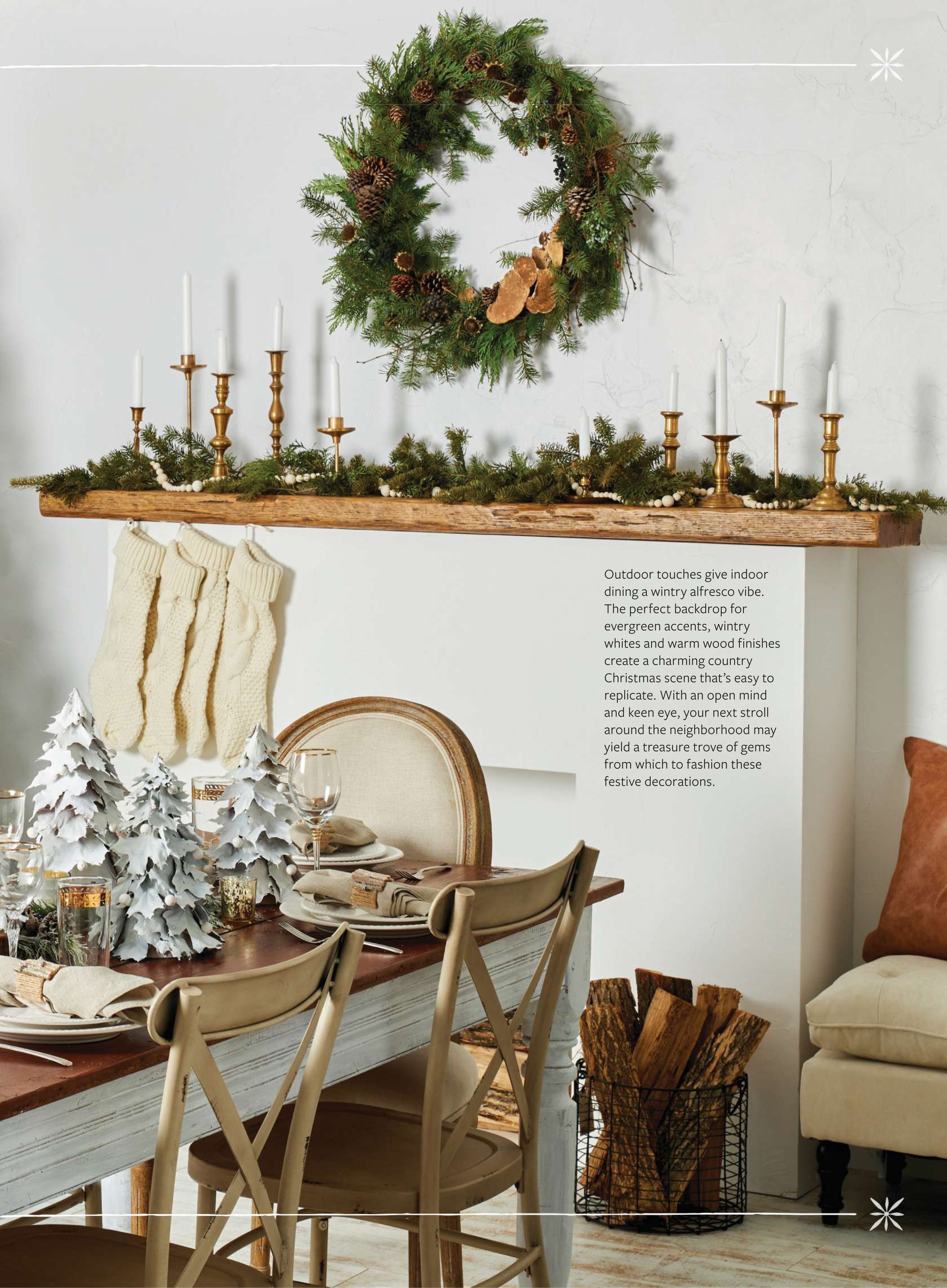
for teachers

Signal the season's arrival in the classroom with tabletop trees. Keep the lemon cypress (*left*) and myrtle (*right*) topiaries in their original containers, and insert them in birch-bark pots (available online). Decorate the topiaries like Christmas trees with battery-powered mini string lights and ribbon. Fill the bases of the containers with fresh cranberries and petite pears to finish the cheery look.

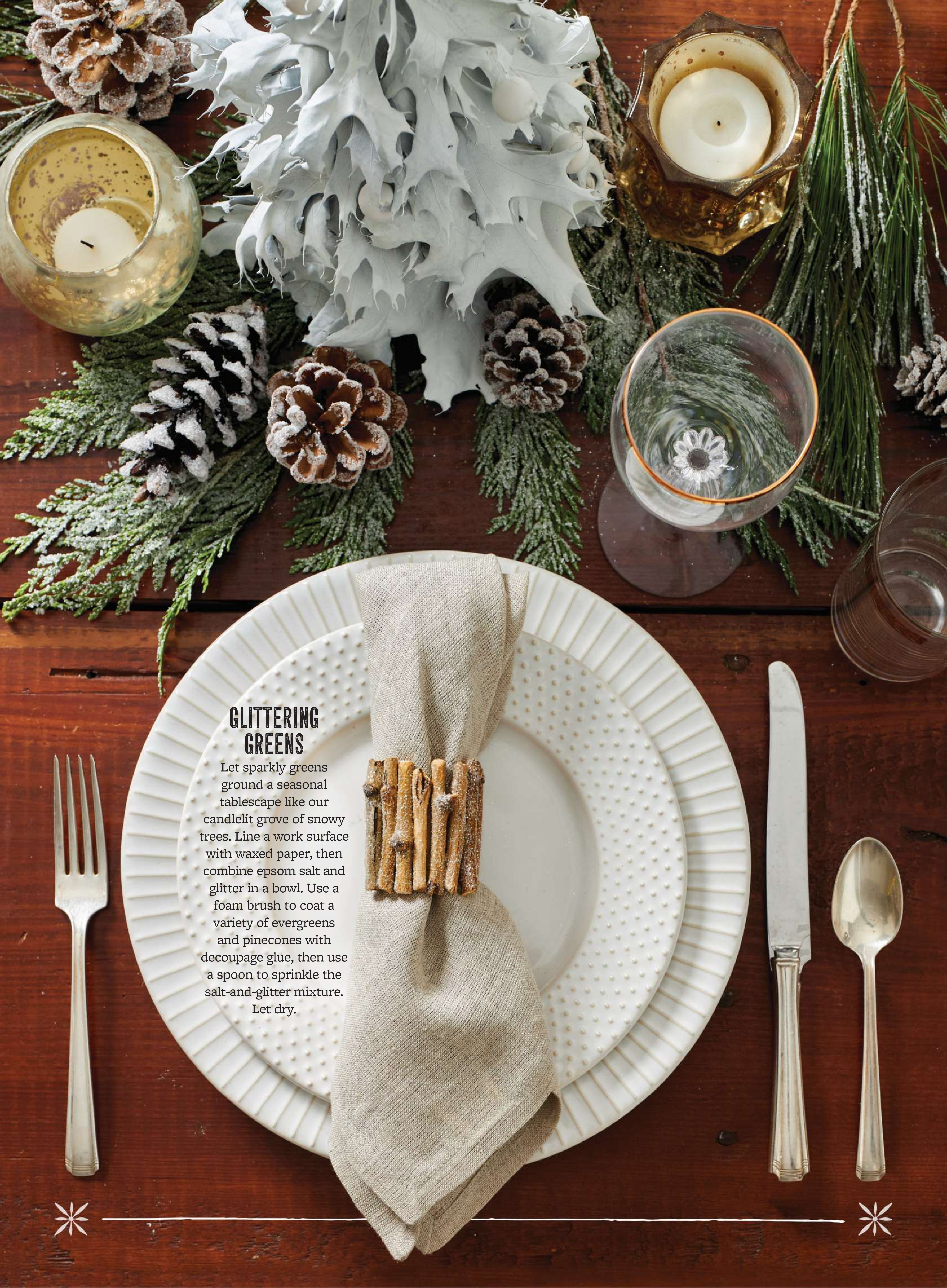
forces of NATURE

From homespun hosting to delivering delightfully wrapped gifts, let woodland wonders create an enchanting country scene. Inspired by nature and made by you, most of the treasures for these thrifty trimmings can be found in your backyard.

Projects by **KIM HUTCHISON**
Photography by **MARTY BALDWIN**
Written by **PAMELA PORTER**



Outdoor touches give indoor dining a wintry alfresco vibe. The perfect backdrop for evergreen accents, wintry whites and warm wood finishes create a charming country Christmas scene that's easy to replicate. With an open mind and keen eye, your next stroll around the neighborhood may yield a treasure trove of gems from which to fashion these festive decorations.

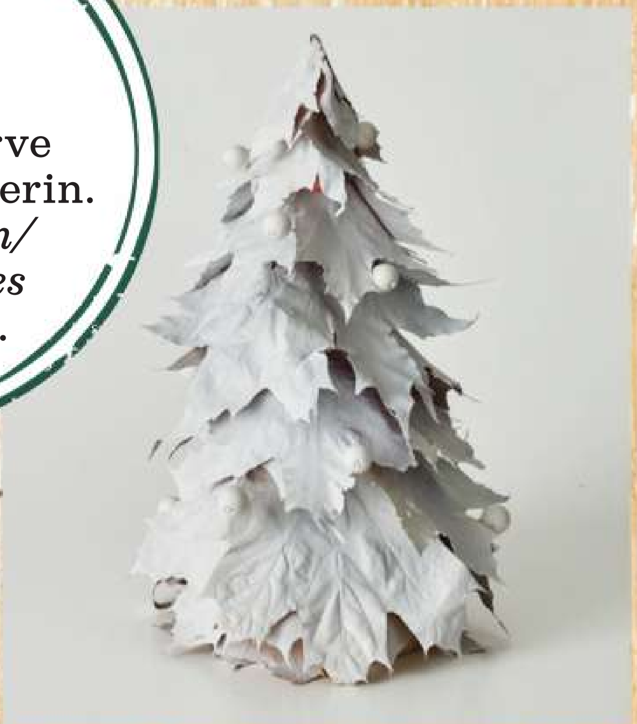


GLITTERING GREENS

Let sparkly greens ground a seasonal tablescape like our candlelit grove of snowy trees. Line a work surface with waxed paper, then combine epsom salt and glitter in a bowl. Use a foam brush to coat a variety of evergreens and pinecones with decoupage glue, then use a spoon to sprinkle the salt-and-glitter mixture. Let dry.

LEARN HOW

You can preserve leaves using glycerin. Visit *BHG.com/preserveleaves* to learn how.



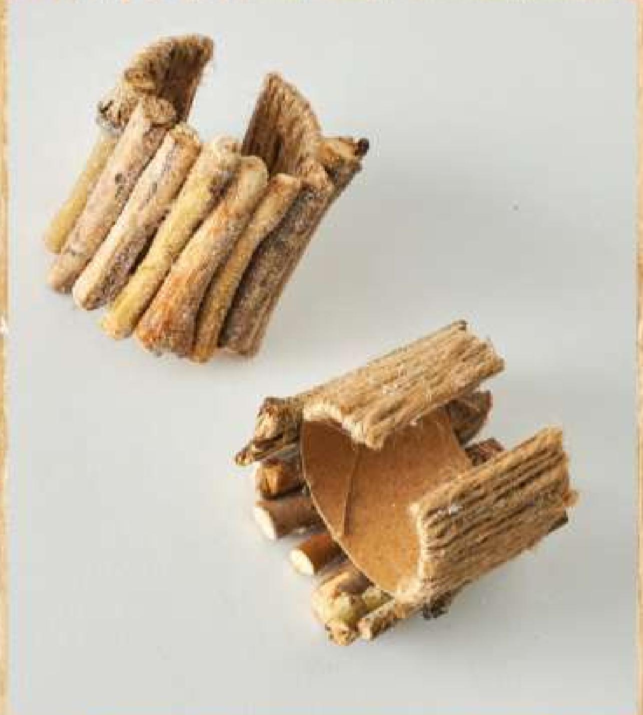
SNOW-CAPPED EVERGREEN TREE

MATERIALS

- ☐ Preserved or dried leaves
- ☐ Papier-mâché cone
- ☐ Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- ☐ White spray paint (we used a semigloss finish)

INSTRUCTIONS

Cut or pinch petioles from leaves. Starting at the bottom of the cone, position leaves, base at the top, and hot-glue to the cone. Repeat with additional leaves around bottom of cone, overlapping as needed. Moving up the cone, add more rows of leaves, slightly overlapping until entire cone is covered. Create a peak at the top. In a well-ventilated area on a protected work surface, spray-paint trees and let dry. Add a second coat of paint if needed.



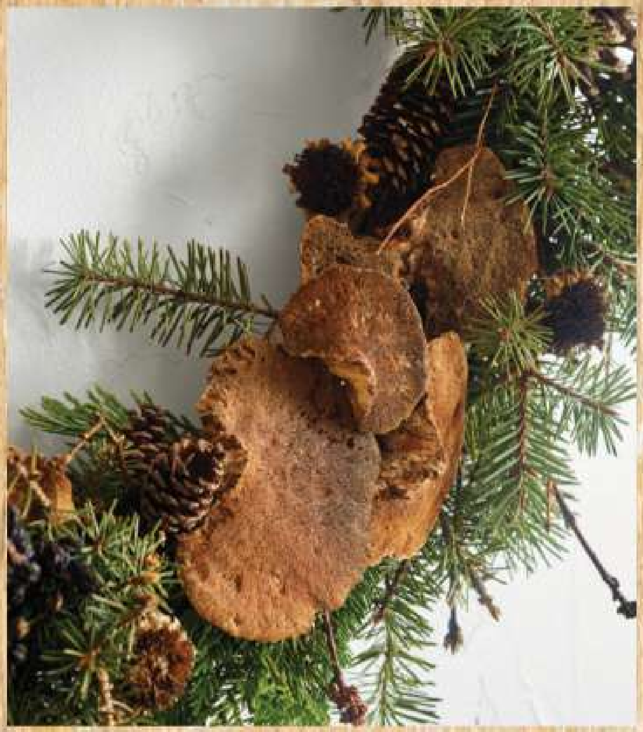
TWIG NAPKIN RINGS

MATERIALS

- ☐ Cardboard paper towel tube
- ☐ Jute twine
- ☐ Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- ☐ Pruning shears
- ☐ Found twigs
- ☐ 220-grit sandpaper
- ☐ Damp cloth
- ☐ Crafts paintbrush
- ☐ Decoupage medium
- ☐ Extra-fine glitter

INSTRUCTIONS

Cut cardboard tube into 1½-inch rings. Cut through one side of each ring to create a C shape. Wrap each shape in jute twine, securing ends with glue. Cut twigs into 2-inch pieces, and sand to remove loose bark and residue. Wipe clean with a damp cloth and let dry. Hot-glue twigs over twine, covering half of the ring opposite the opening. Paint twigs with decoupage medium and sprinkle with glitter. Let dry.



FORAGED WREATH

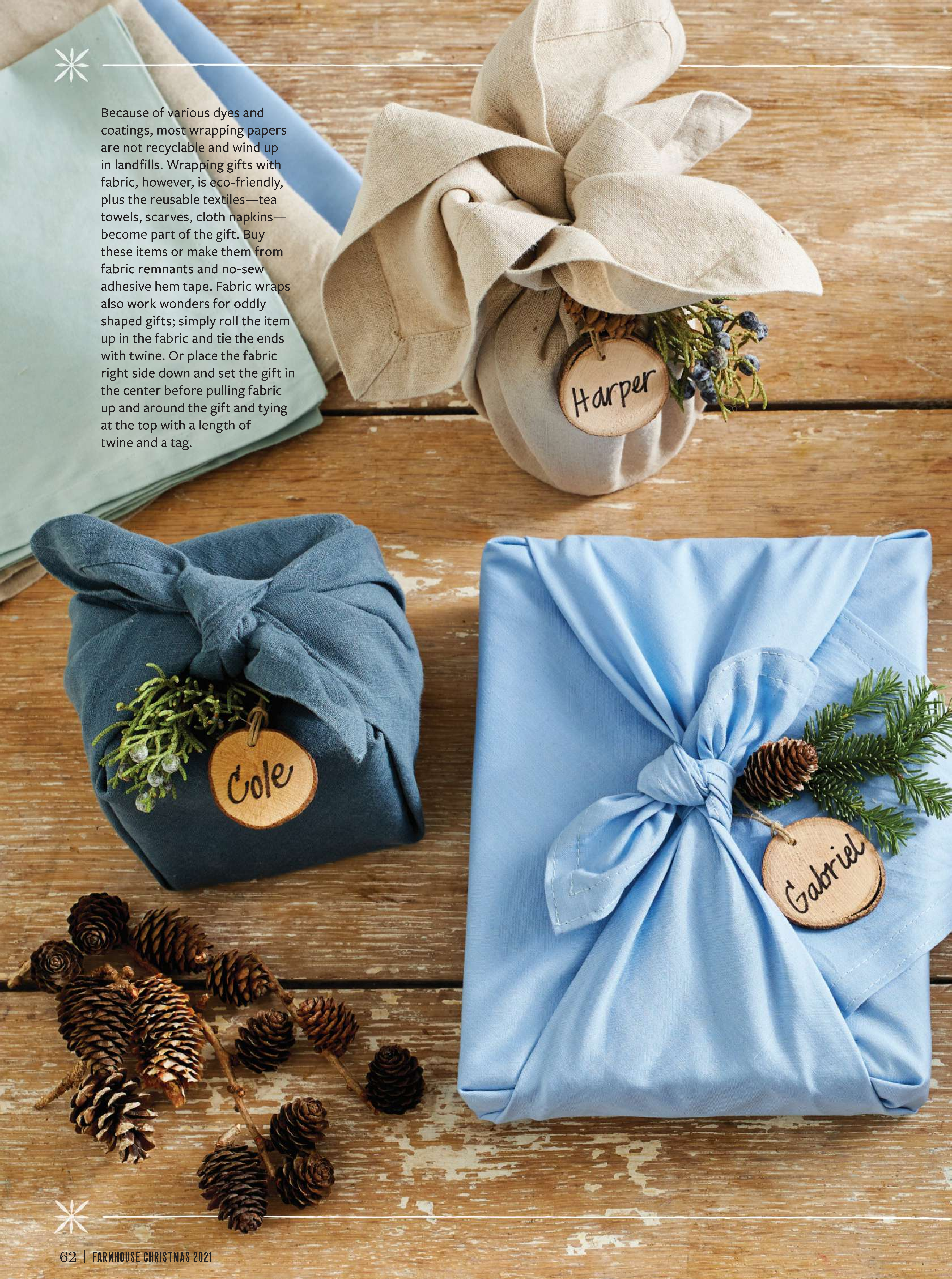
MATERIALS

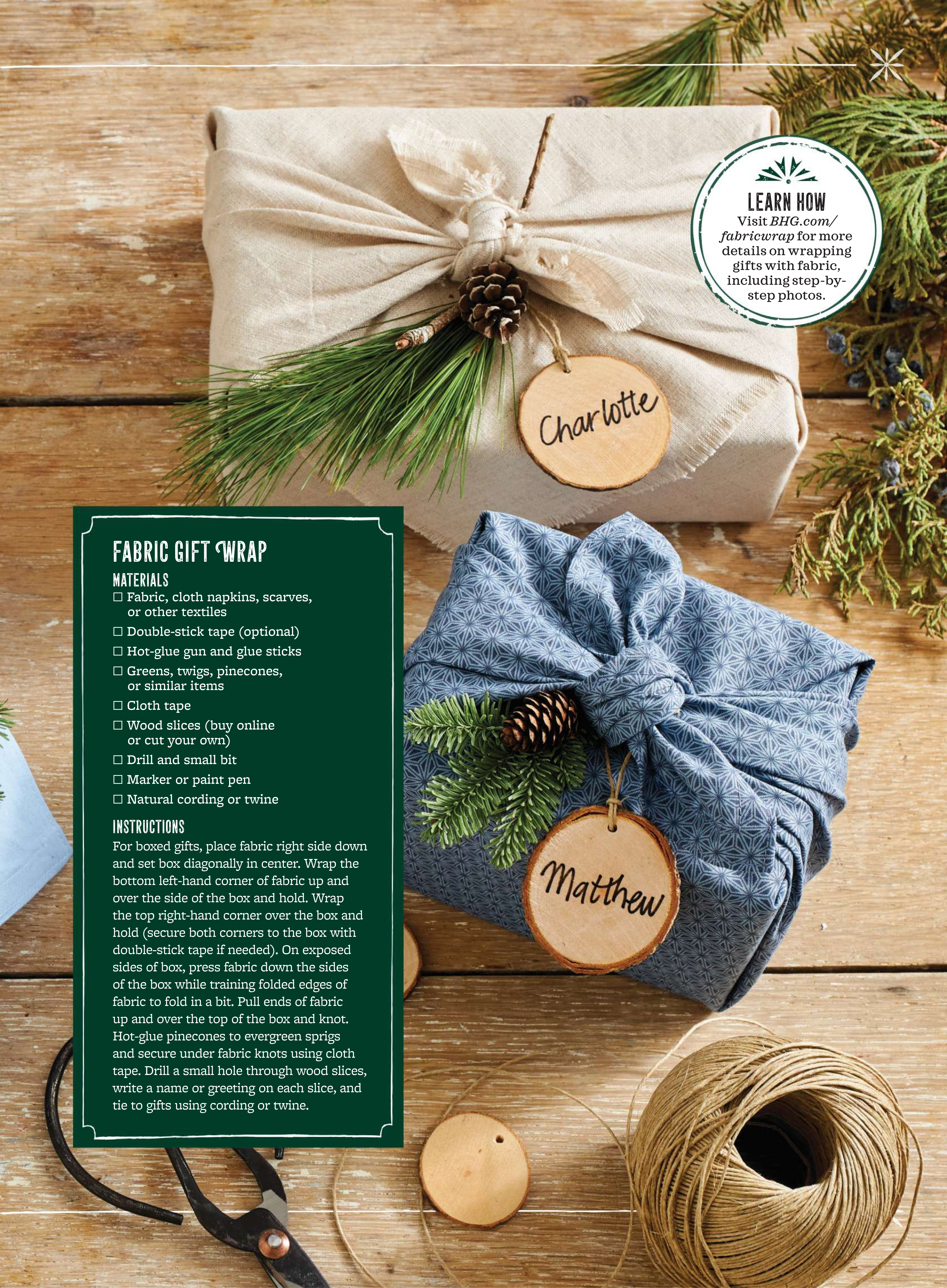
- ☐ Pruning shears
- ☐ Assorted evergreens and twigs
- ☐ Grapevine or willow wreath form
- ☐ Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- ☐ Wire clippers
- ☐ Florists wire
- ☐ Florists pins
- ☐ Natural elements: pinecones, mushrooms, twigs, feathers, acorns, moss, pods, etc.

INSTRUCTIONS

Cut and tuck greenery and twigs into wreath form, using hot glue and florists wire if needed, to create a loose, natural-looking wreath. Hot-glue larger elements such as pinecones and mushrooms to florists pins, then tuck them into the wreath. Secure additional elements using hot glue, creating an asymmetrical composition by clustering several elements in one area. TIP: If you're not able to find a variety of natural elements in your area, buy them from online retailers such as *etsy.com* or *drieddecor.com*.

Because of various dyes and coatings, most wrapping papers are not recyclable and wind up in landfills. Wrapping gifts with fabric, however, is eco-friendly, plus the reusable textiles—tea towels, scarves, cloth napkins—become part of the gift. Buy these items or make them from fabric remnants and no-sew adhesive hem tape. Fabric wraps also work wonders for oddly shaped gifts; simply roll the item up in the fabric and tie the ends with twine. Or place the fabric right side down and set the gift in the center before pulling fabric up and around the gift and tying at the top with a length of twine and a tag.





LEARN HOW

Visit *BHG.com/fabricwrap* for more details on wrapping gifts with fabric, including step-by-step photos.

FABRIC GIFT WRAP

MATERIALS

☐ Fabric, cloth napkins, scarves, or other textiles
☐ Double-stick tape (optional)
☐ Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
☐ Greens, twigs, pinecones, or similar items
☐ Cloth tape
☐ Wood slices (buy online or cut your own)
☐ Drill and small bit
☐ Marker or paint pen
☐ Natural cording or twine

INSTRUCTIONS

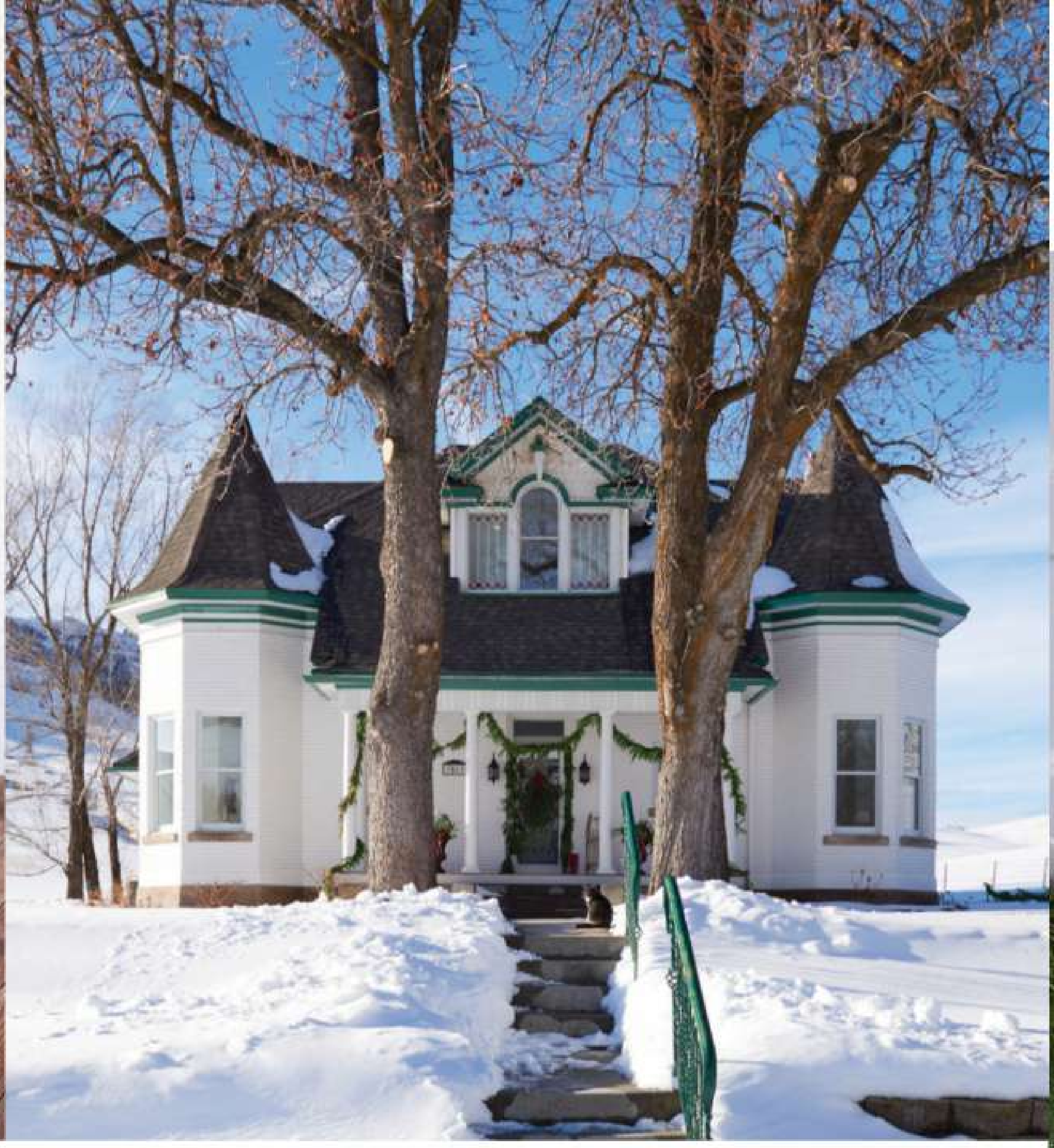
For boxed gifts, place fabric right side down and set box diagonally in center. Wrap the bottom left-hand corner of fabric up and over the side of the box and hold. Wrap the top right-hand corner over the box and hold (secure both corners to the box with double-stick tape if needed). On exposed sides of box, press fabric down the sides of the box while training folded edges of fabric to fold in a bit. Pull ends of fabric up and over the top of the box and knot. Hot-glue pinecones to evergreen sprigs and secure under fabric knots using cloth tape. Drill a small hole through wood slices, write a name or greeting on each slice, and tie to gifts using cording or twine.

THIS PHOTO A square wreath provides a graphic twist on the typical round variety. Evergreens and eucalyptus soften the straight edges. **OPPOSITE** The parlor mantel is where stockings await Santa's arrival. "I sewed them from an old pillowcase I found at an estate sale," homeowner Hollie Keller says.

HOME *for the* HOLIDAYS

Last Christmas was especially merry for the Keller family. They spent the holiday reclaiming a family home lost more than 70 years ago.

Written & styled by **LACEY HOWARD** Photography by **JAY WILDE** Produced by **ANDREA CAUGHEY**



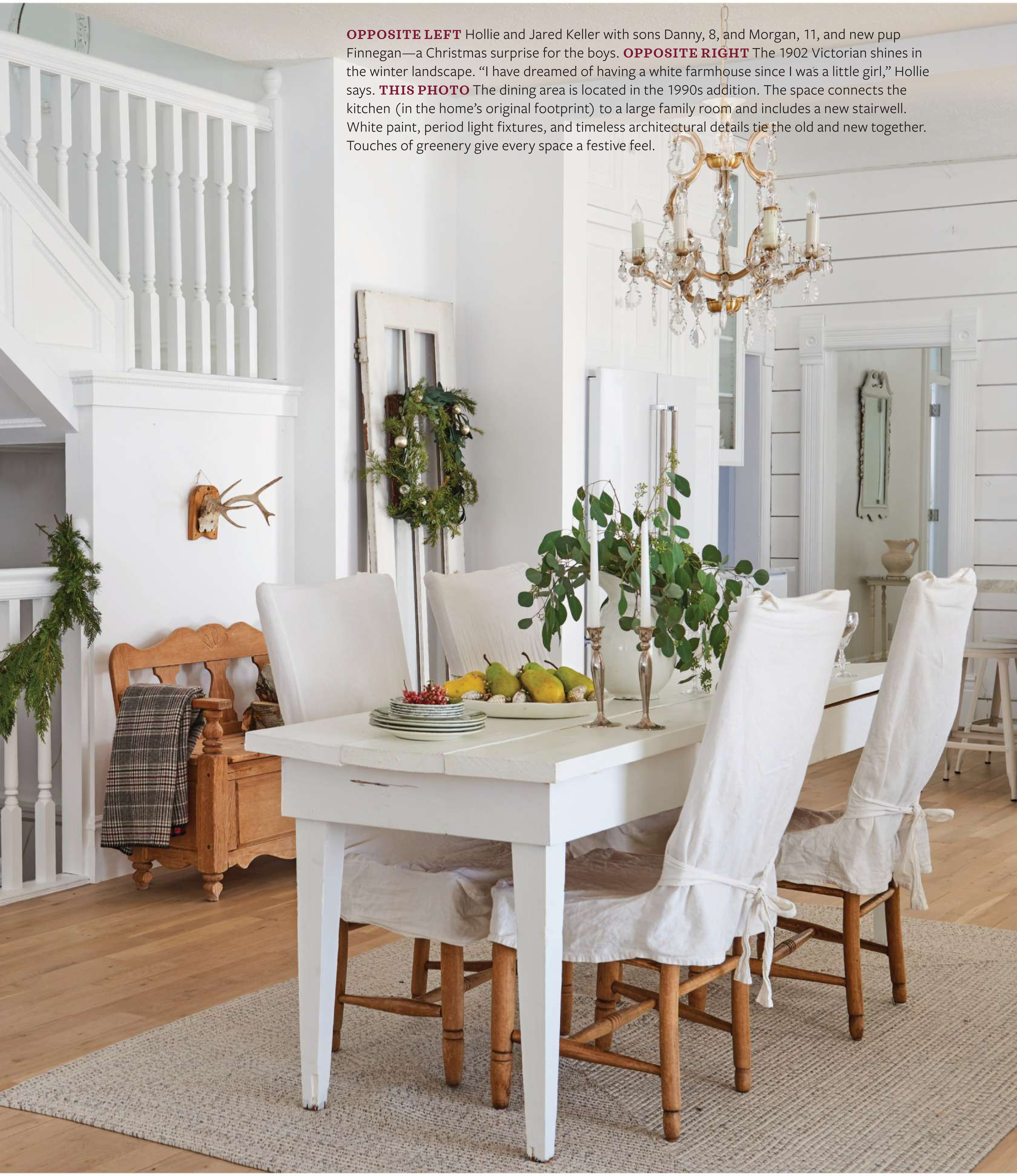
"MY HUSBAND, JARED, AND I ARE BOTH VERY SENTIMENTAL WHEN IT COMES TO CHRISTMAS,"

Hollie Keller says. But this past Christmas was especially heartfelt. It was the first one in their family's "new" house. "It was built in 1902 by Jared's great-grandfather and his brother. They homesteaded the land and were sheep farmers," she says. The Idaho home was ultimately lost to the family and then abandoned in the 1950s. "We've heard many stories about how, when it was a proper home, they would hold dances in the parlor. Once it became abandoned, local kids would hold annual spook alleys here each fall," Hollie says. In the late 1990s, the home was adopted and remodeled, including a sizable addition to the original 2,300-square-foot Victorian.

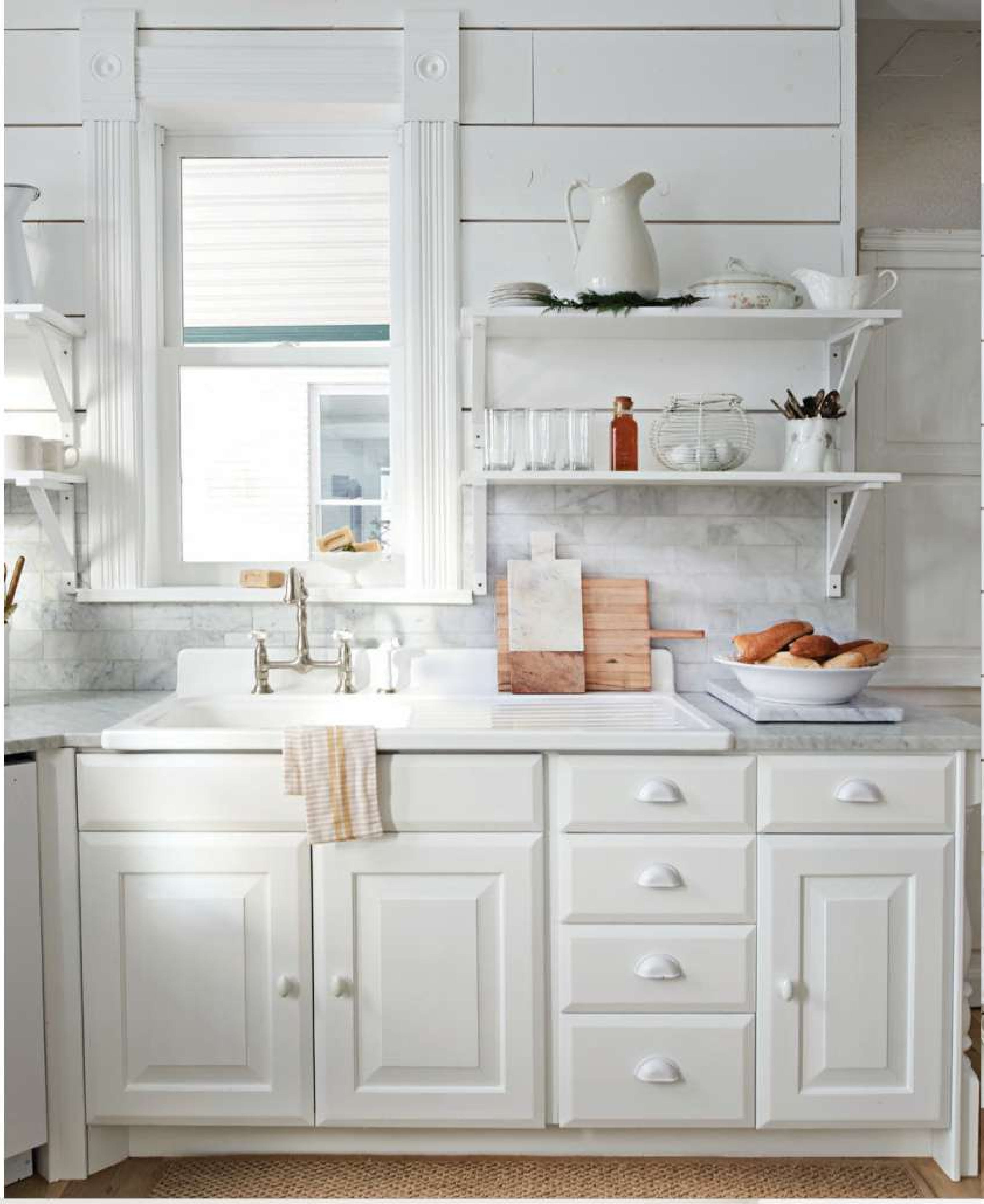
When Hollie and Jared had the opportunity to purchase the home and surrounding 25 acres, they jumped at it, uprooting their lives in Pocatello, Idaho, a midsize college town, and moving to the outskirts of tiny Preston. The new location required a trade-off: convenience and a close community of friends for 360-degree views of scenic hills, a creek where sons Morgan and Danny play, a big red barn complete with a gray kitty, and the sacred quiet of country life—even quieter after new-fallen snow blankets the hills.

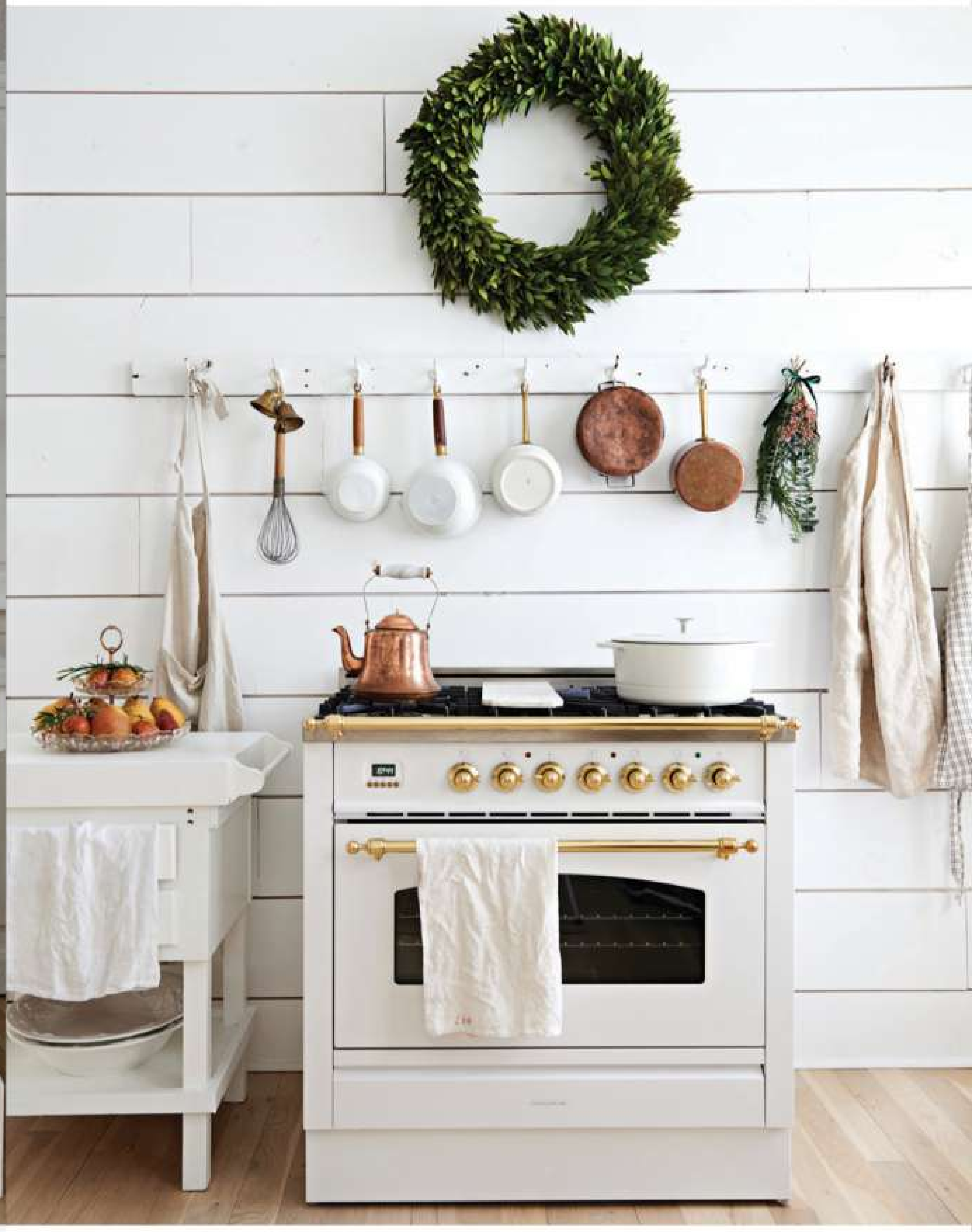
The country life feels just right—especially at the holidays. Hollie dresses the house in simple greenery, brass and mercury glass baubles, vintage sleigh bells, and other Victorian-appropriate fare, including a tree the family harvested themselves. "We took a family outing and cut our tree down 2 miles from our home," Hollie says. "That will be a fun tradition to continue year after year."

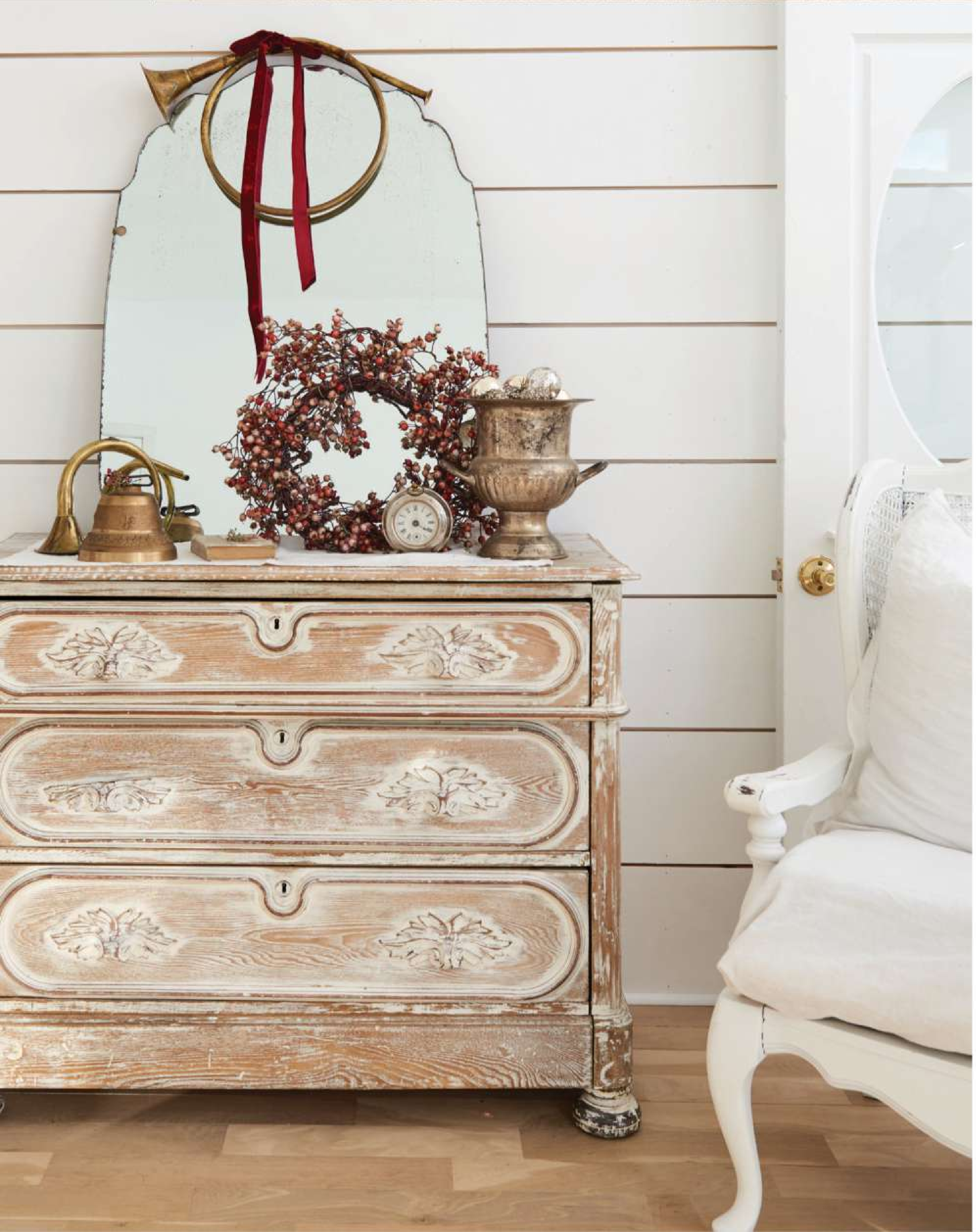
Hollie has documented her home's return to glory on Instagram @hollie_keller_. "We feel so over the moon to be owners of an old home, even though it's come with its fair share of old country house problems," she says. But she and Jared aren't intimidated by the home's needs. Rather, they're inspired to keep the house happy and healthy for generations—and Christmases—to come. "It's been so sentimental and providential to have Keller boys under this roof and running these fields once again," she says. Not to mention dancing around the Christmas tree in the parlor. ✳



OPPOSITE LEFT Hollie and Jared Keller with sons Danny, 8, and Morgan, 11, and new pup Finnegan—a Christmas surprise for the boys. **OPPOSITE RIGHT** The 1902 Victorian shines in the winter landscape. “I have dreamed of having a white farmhouse since I was a little girl,” Hollie says. **THIS PHOTO** The dining area is located in the 1990s addition. The space connects the kitchen (in the home’s original footprint) to a large family room and includes a new stairwell. White paint, period light fixtures, and timeless architectural details tie the old and new together. Touches of greenery give every space a festive feel.

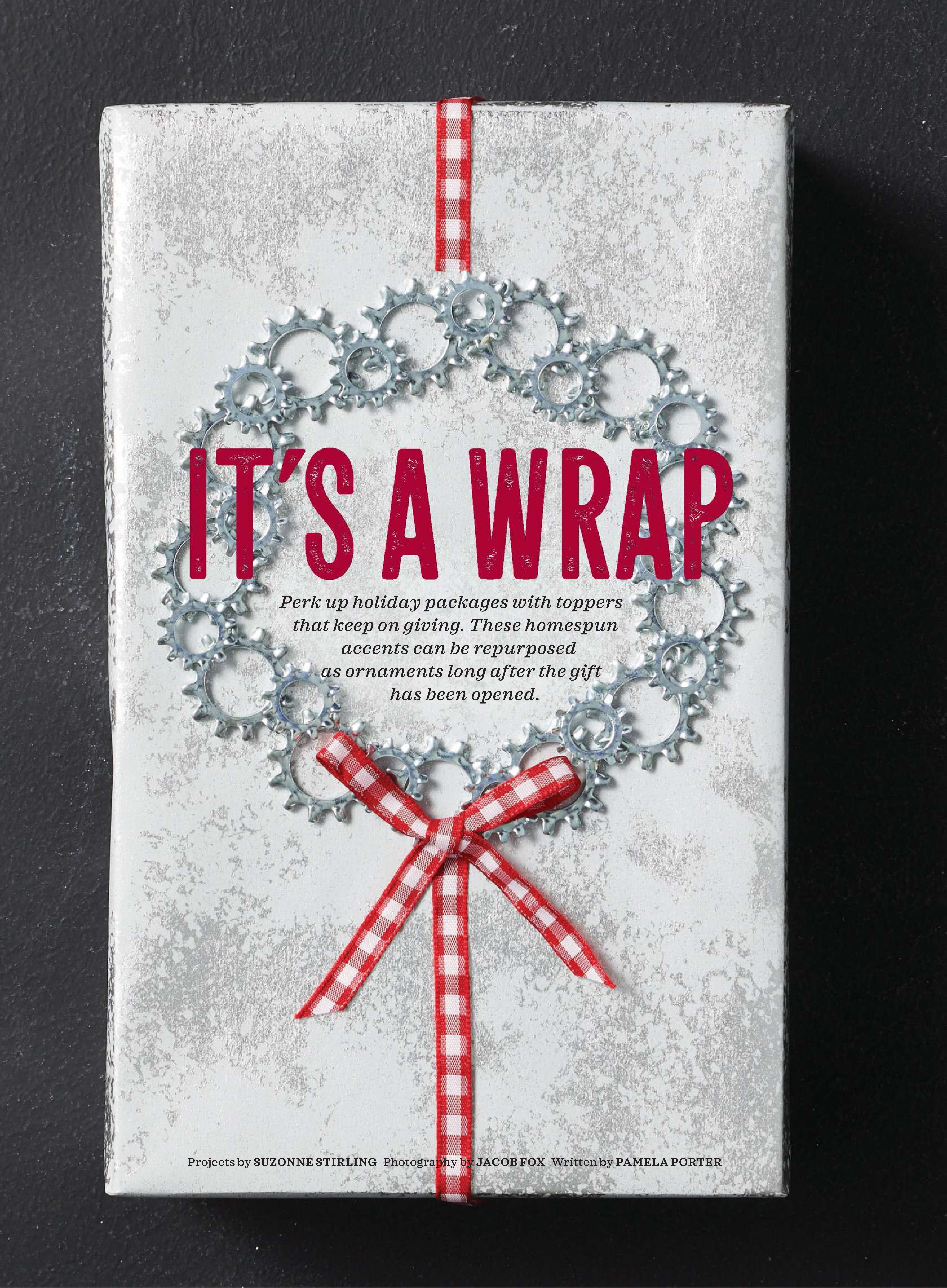






ABOVE LEFT "I love open shelving and how it honors the simple kitchens of yesteryear," Hollie says. The vintage sink and Carrara marble countertops also hearken to the home's era. "Even though they are temperamental and fussy," she says, "I just couldn't find any other counters that felt like the proper choice." **ABOVE** For the range, Hollie had to settle for a vintage look rather than an antique specimen. "I would have loved to have brought in an actual vintage range, but my husband wasn't on board with that one!" she says. Above it, her cookware and a large, simple wreath punctuate the plank wall. **LEFT** An antique French dresser graces the drawing room. "It was the first piece of furniture I bought for this house," Hollie says. "I fell totally in love with it and was so excited to find something French here in Idaho." For the holidays, she tops the piece with a vignette in red, brass, and silver. **OPPOSITE** Holiday family gatherings are made extra-special by Hollie's antiques and flea market finds that she dresses with simple seasonal touches. "I love bringing in fresh greenery at Christmastime. For me, that is such an integral part of celebrating the season," she says.

> “ONE OF MY FAVORITE HOLIDAY FAMILY TRADITIONS IS OUR LARGE COLLECTION OF CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS BOOKS THAT WE READ FROM EACH NIGHT IN DECEMBER.”
>
> —HOLLIE KELLER, HOMEOWNER



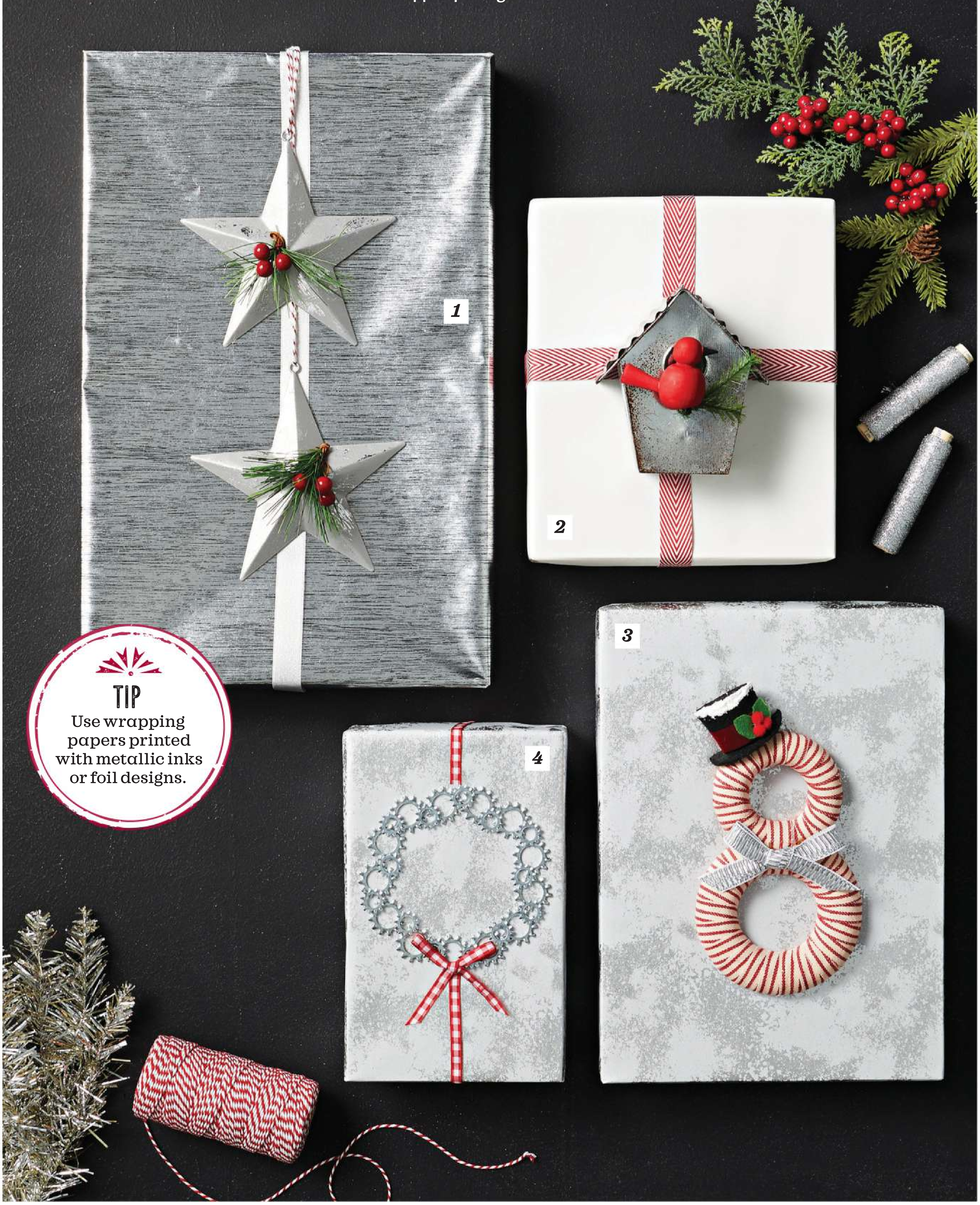
IT'S A WRAP

Perk up holiday packages with toppers that keep on giving. These homespun accents can be repurposed as ornaments long after the gift has been opened.

Projects by **SUZONNE STIRLING** Photography by **JACOB FOX** Written by **PAMELA PORTER**

galvanized garnishes

Celebrate quintessential farmhouse metal with a mix of ornaments, hardware, and metallic papers. ***1.*** Glue faux greenery and berries on top of galvanized star ornaments, then secure to a length of ribbon around the package. ***2.*** Paint a wood crafts bird and glue it to a galvanized birdhouse ornament. Secure the house to the package using mounting tape. ***3.*** A metallic ribbon bow and a top hat accent a snowman shape formed by wrapping ribbon around two wood or foam rings. ***4.*** Arrange ½-inch and 5⁄16-inch lock washers into a circle, overlapping and layering smaller washers on top. Use jewelry adhesive to secure washers to form a wreath ornament. Tack wreath to the center of a wrapped package and embellish with ribbon.

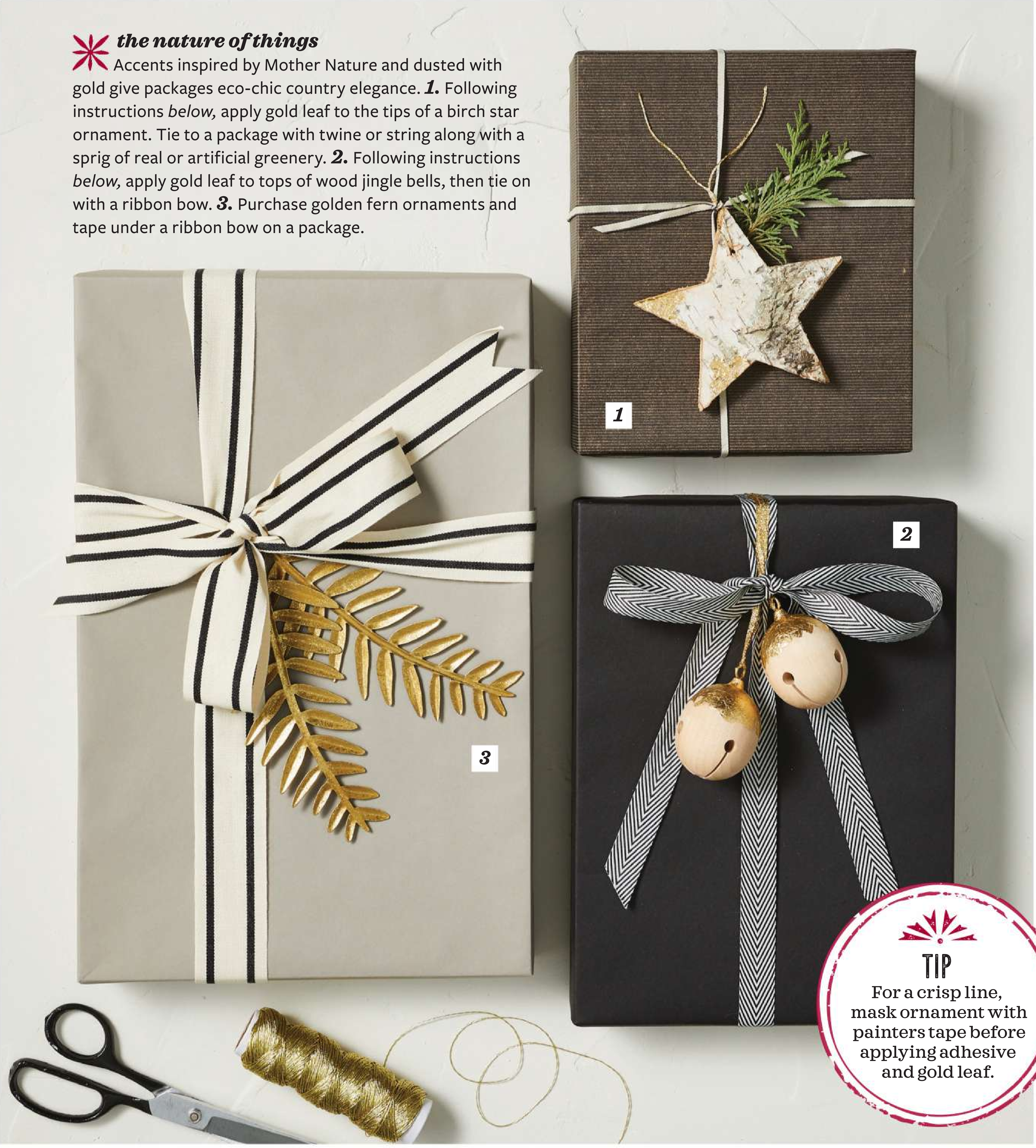


TIP

Use wrapping papers printed with metallic inks or foil designs.

the nature of things

Accents inspired by Mother Nature and dusted with gold give packages eco-chic country elegance. ***1.*** Following instructions *below,* apply gold leaf to the tips of a birch star ornament. Tie to a package with twine or string along with a sprig of real or artificial greenery. ***2.*** Following instructions *below,* apply gold leaf to tops of wood jingle bells, then tie on with a ribbon bow. ***3.*** Purchase golden fern ornaments and tape under a ribbon bow on a package.



TIP

For a crisp line, mask ornament with painters tape before applying adhesive and gold leaf.

GOLD-LEAF SHAPES

MATERIALS

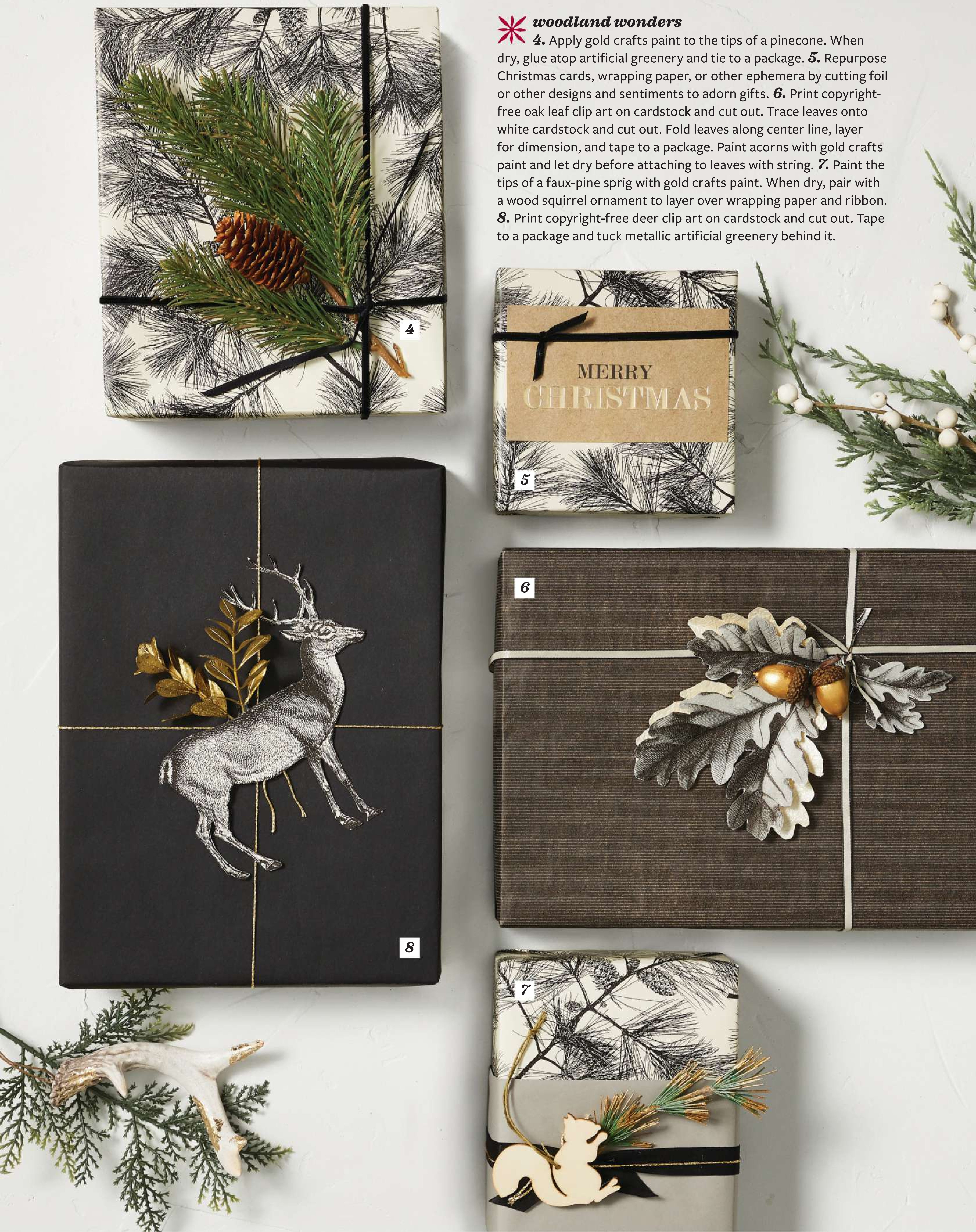
- ☐ Crafts paintbrush
- ☐ Gold leaf adhesive
- ☐ Ornament
- ☐ Cotton gloves (optional)
- ☐ Gold leaf sheets
- ☐ Natural-bristle brush
- ☐ Clear acrylic sealer (optional)

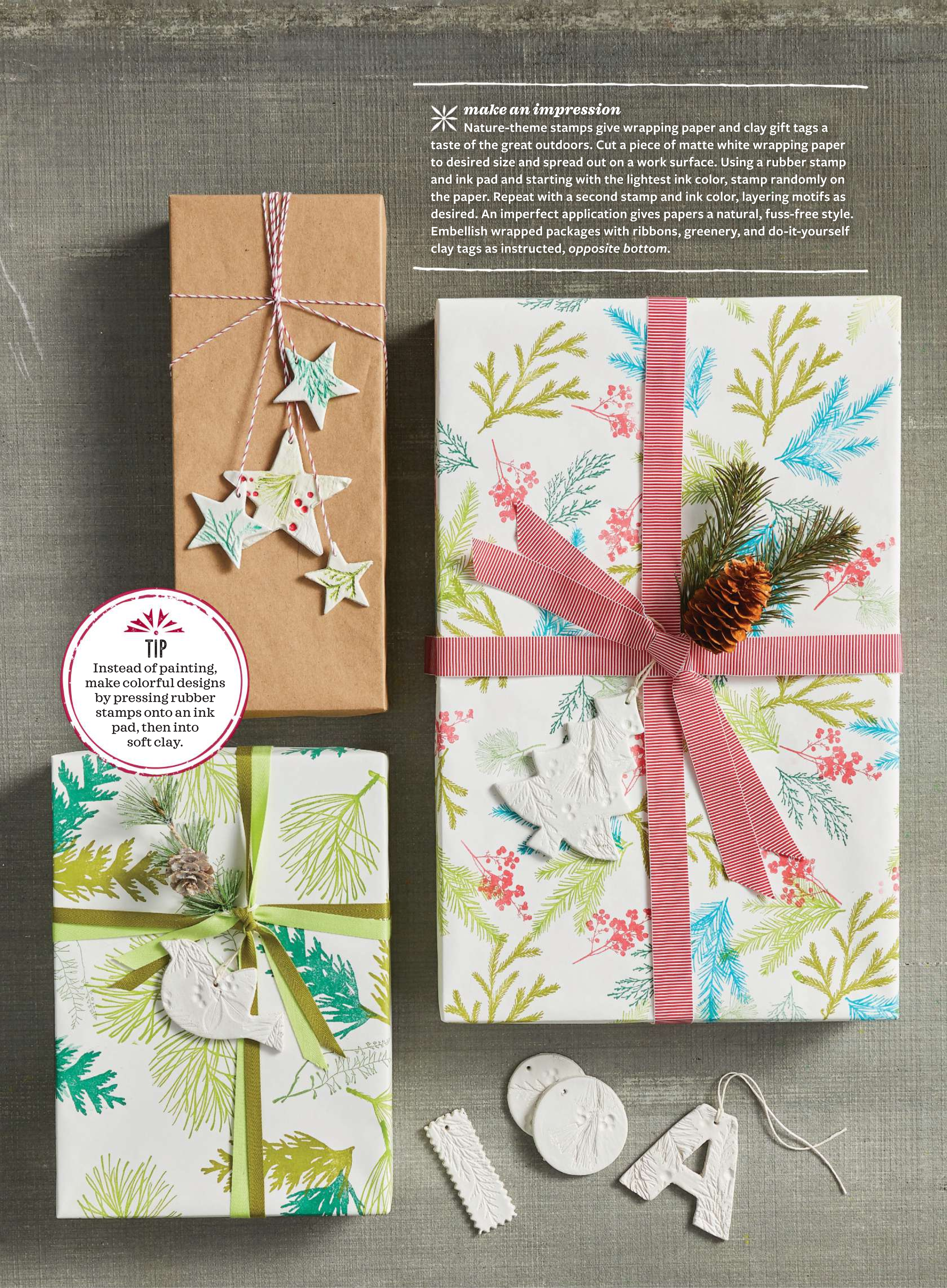
INSTRUCTIONS

Using a paintbrush, apply gold leaf adhesive to ornament according to manufacturer's instructions. Let adhesive sit for about 10 minutes until it turns tacky. Wearing cotton gloves to protect the leaf, press leaf to the adhesive, foil side down, burnishing with fingers and adding pieces until area is covered. Cut pieces for small areas. Use a natural-bristle brush to remove excess leaf from the surface. Let dry for a few hours before use. To help resist tarnishing and fingerprints, apply a clear acrylic sealer if desired.

woodland wonders

4. Apply gold crafts paint to the tips of a pinecone. When dry, glue atop artificial greenery and tie to a package. ***5.*** Repurpose Christmas cards, wrapping paper, or other ephemera by cutting foil or other designs and sentiments to adorn gifts. ***6.*** Print copyright-free oak leaf clip art on cardstock and cut out. Trace leaves onto white cardstock and cut out. Fold leaves along center line, layer for dimension, and tape to a package. Paint acorns with gold crafts paint and let dry before attaching to leaves with string. ***7.*** Paint the tips of a faux-pine sprig with gold crafts paint. When dry, pair with a wood squirrel ornament to layer over wrapping paper and ribbon. ***8.*** Print copyright-free deer clip art on cardstock and cut out. Tape to a package and tuck metallic artificial greenery behind it.





make an impression

Nature-theme stamps give wrapping paper and clay gift tags a taste of the great outdoors. Cut a piece of matte white wrapping paper to desired size and spread out on a work surface. Using a rubber stamp and ink pad and starting with the lightest ink color, stamp randomly on the paper. Repeat with a second stamp and ink color, layering motifs as desired. An imperfect application gives papers a natural, fuss-free style. Embellish wrapped packages with ribbons, greenery, and do-it-yourself clay tags as instructed, *opposite bottom*.

TIP

Instead of painting, make colorful designs by pressing rubber stamps onto an ink pad, then into soft clay.

TIP

To shorten drying time, place clay shapes on a parchment-lined baking sheet and put in a cold oven. Heat oven to 200°F and bake for 60 minutes, flipping every 20 minutes. Remove from oven and let cool before removing from baking sheet.

CLAY TAGS

MATERIALS

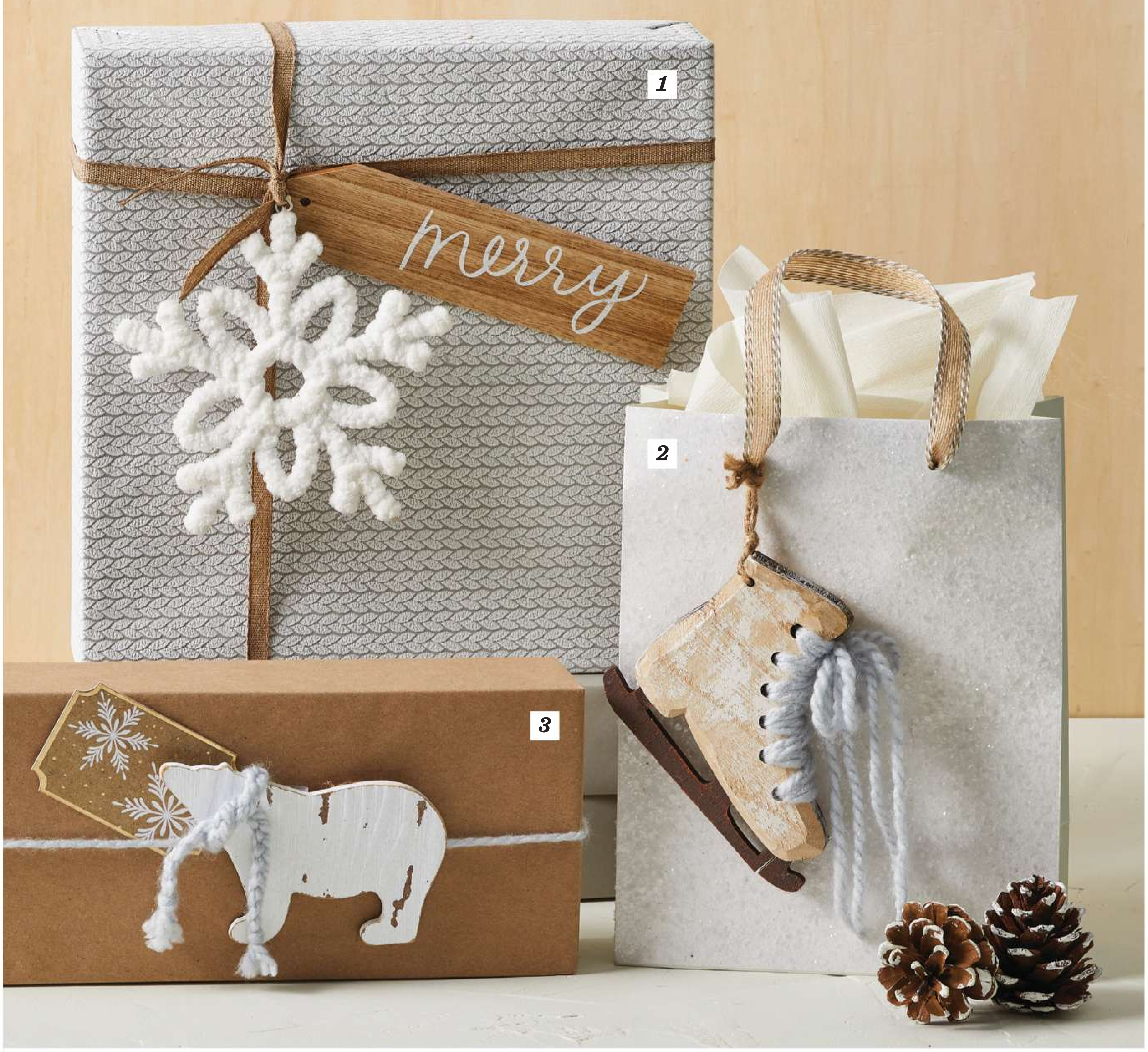
- ☐ White air-dry clay
- ☐ Mat or parchment paper
- ☐ Rolling pin
- ☐ Natural or artificial greenery
- ☐ Artificial berry sprig
- ☐ Cookie cutters
- ☐ Toothpick
- ☐ Wire rack for drying
- ☐ Acrylic crafts paint
- ☐ Spotter and liner paintbrushes

INSTRUCTIONS

Roll air-dry clay on a mat or parchment paper to about ¼ inch thick. Arrange greenery on the clay and roll over it to make an impression in the clay. Remove greenery. Gently press faux berries into the clay in the desired areas. Use cookie cutters to cut out shapes and a toothpick to make a hole for hanging. Carefully lift the shapes and place on a wire rack to dry, turning several times over two to three days until clay is fully dry. Paint ornaments using slightly watered-down acrylic crafts paint.

warm and woolly

Top packages with cozy trimmings guaranteed to warm hearts. ***1.*** We purchased this chenille snowflake ornament, but you can make your own by wrapping a wood or chipboard snowflake ornament with chenille or fashioning a snowflake from chenille stems. Add a burlap ribbon and wood tag bearing a personalized message written with a paint pen. ***2.*** To cozy up this wood ice skate ornament, we replaced the string laces with yarn and tied it to a glittery gift bag. ***3.*** Braid yarn and tie as a scarf around a purchased polar bear ornament.



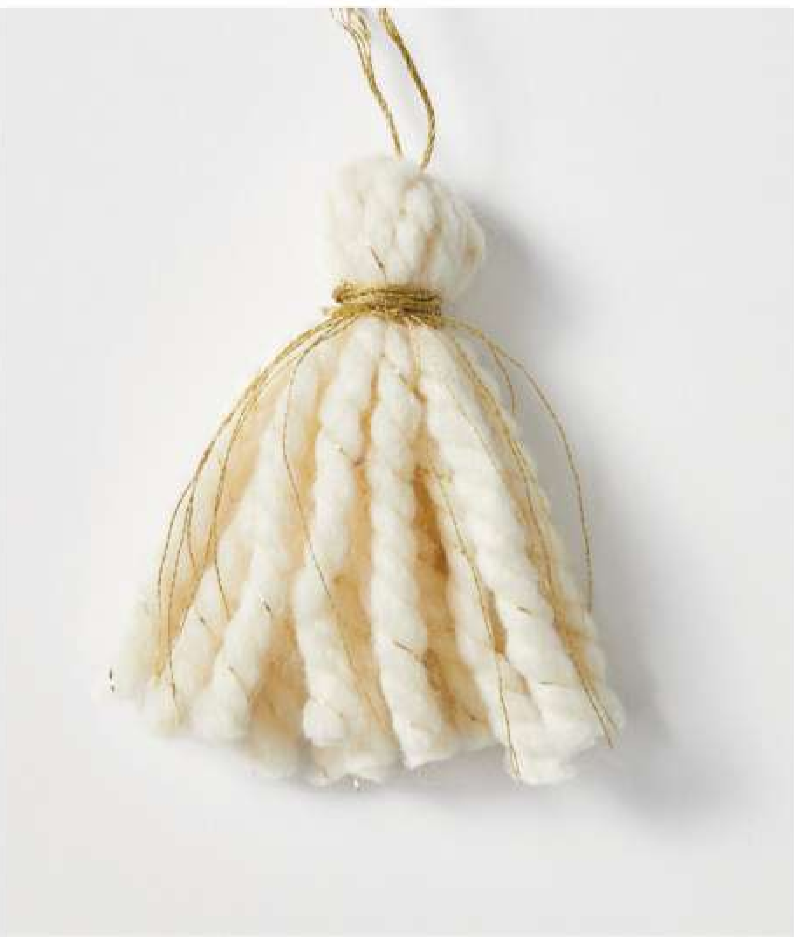
YARN TASSEL

MATERIALS

- ☐ Chunky yarn
- ☐ Ruler
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Metallic embroidery floss

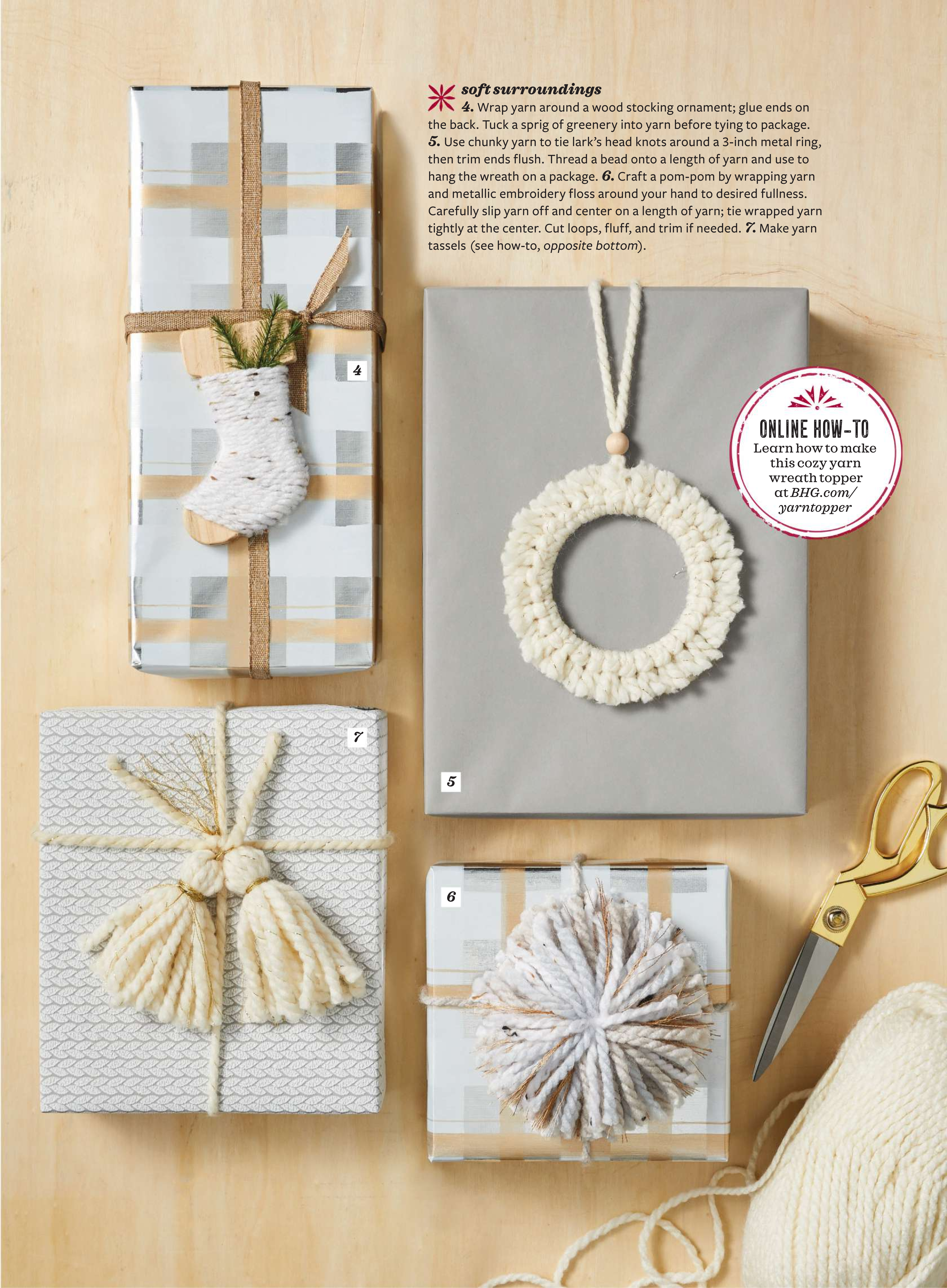
INSTRUCTIONS

Cut about ten 8- to 10-inch lengths of yarn, gather them, and lay flat. Tie at the center with metallic embroidery floss. Knot tightly and leave a tail for tying to the package. Fold yarn in half with floss tie at the top. Wrap a band of metallic floss around the yarn about ½ inch from the top, knotting and letting the ends trail down. Trim edges of yarn and floss flush.



soft surroundings

4. Wrap yarn around a wood stocking ornament; glue ends on the back. Tuck a sprig of greenery into yarn before tying to package. ***5.*** Use chunky yarn to tie lark's head knots around a 3-inch metal ring, then trim ends flush. Thread a bead onto a length of yarn and use to hang the wreath on a package. ***6.*** Craft a pom-pom by wrapping yarn and metallic embroidery floss around your hand to desired fullness. Carefully slip yarn off and center on a length of yarn; tie wrapped yarn tightly at the center. Cut loops, fluff, and trim if needed. ***7.*** Make yarn tassels (see how-to, *opposite bottom*).



ONLINE HOW-TO

Learn how to make this cozy yarn wreath topper at *BHG.com/ yarntopper*

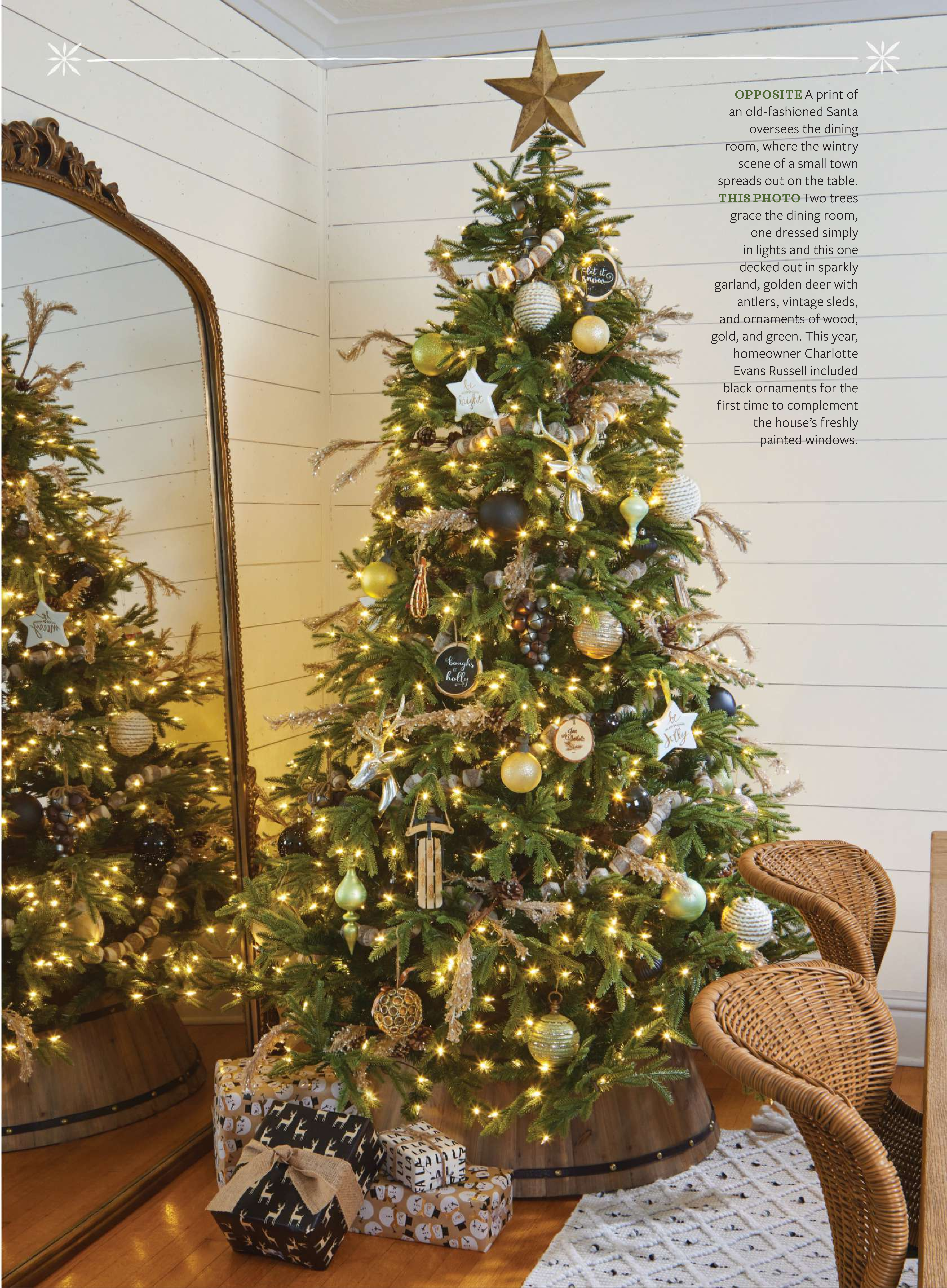
GOOD NEWS OF Great Joy

Christmas Day is extra special for this Alabama family, and they celebrate the whole season with gusto.

Photography by **ADAM ALBRIGHT** Written by **SARAH HALVERSON**

CHRISTMAS DAY IN 2004 MARKED A COMPLETE CHANGE IN CHARLOTTE EVANS RUSSELL'S LIFE.

Everything before that date had been full of trouble and heartache. But 17 years ago, her entire trajectory changed, and Charlotte has celebrated the day with the sort of exuberance and joy that can come only from someone who is back from the brink. "That's really the reason I like to go all out for Christmas—it's such a special time for me," Charlotte says. "We have so much fun decorating and baking, and I like making memories together and involving the whole family, especially Kelbee, my stepdaughter—she loves it as well. It's not how I grew up at all. We would celebrate some, but it wasn't anything like I try to make it!"



OPPOSITE A print of an old-fashioned Santa oversees the dining room, where the wintry scene of a small town spreads out on the table. **THIS PHOTO** Two trees grace the dining room, one dressed simply in lights and this one decked out in sparkly garland, golden deer with antlers, vintage sleds, and ornaments of wood, gold, and green. This year, homeowner Charlotte Evans Russell included black ornaments for the first time to complement the house's freshly painted windows.

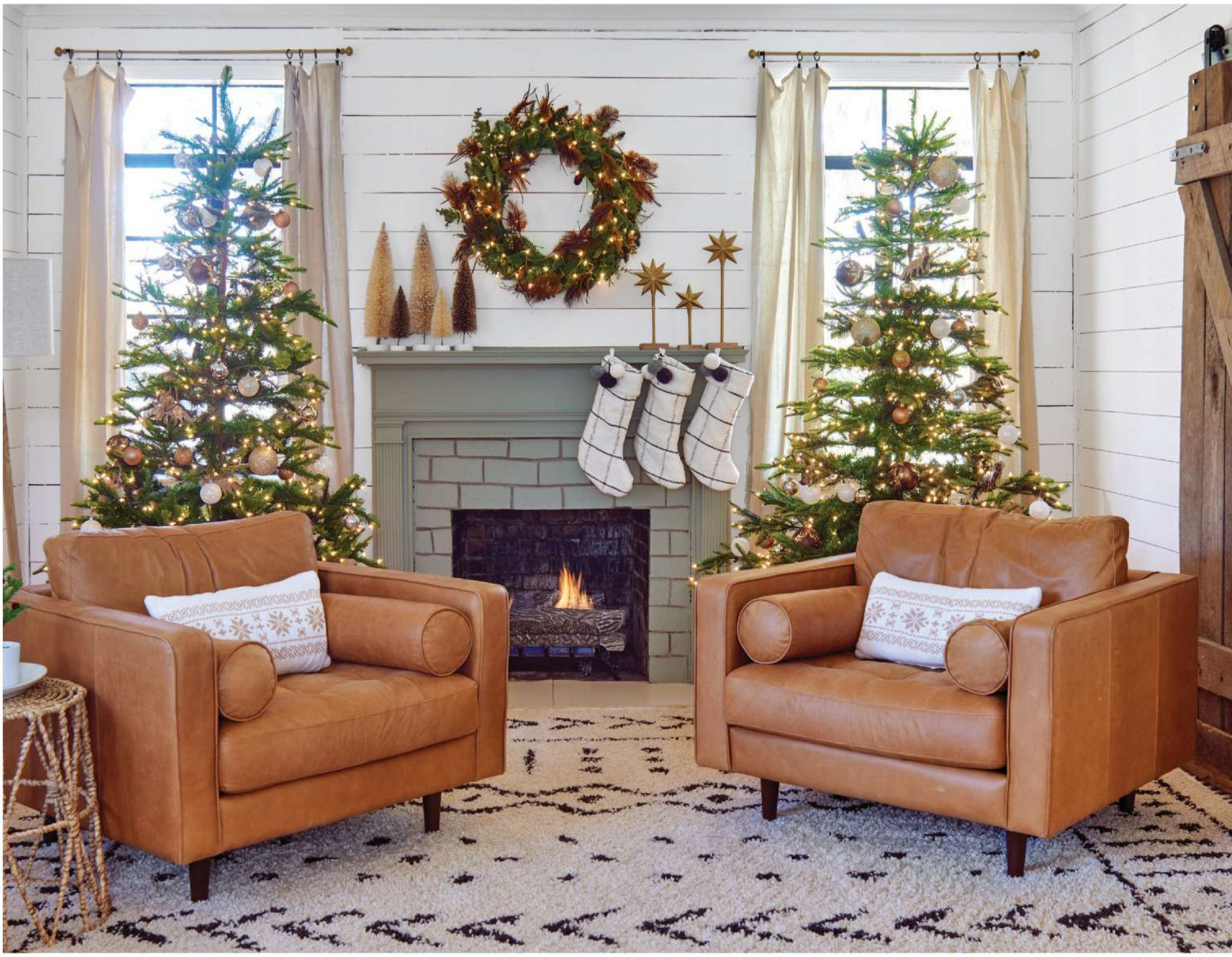
LEFT The living room's flocked tree is the first one Charlotte and her husband, Jon, bought after they were married. "That's our family tree, so it has all of the special ornaments on it," she says, and a garland of vintage Santa postcards clipped to a jute string. **ABOVE** Charlotte, Jon, and Kelbee Russell (age 13). **OPPOSITE** Charlotte gussies up the kitchen with trees on the counter and island, and a garland around the window. She also tucks battery-powered lights along the shelves for sparkle. Every year, her Instagram followers (@charlotteshappyhome) clamor to know where the red "believe" sign came from: It's a Kirkland's purchase that Charlotte displays in a new place each year.

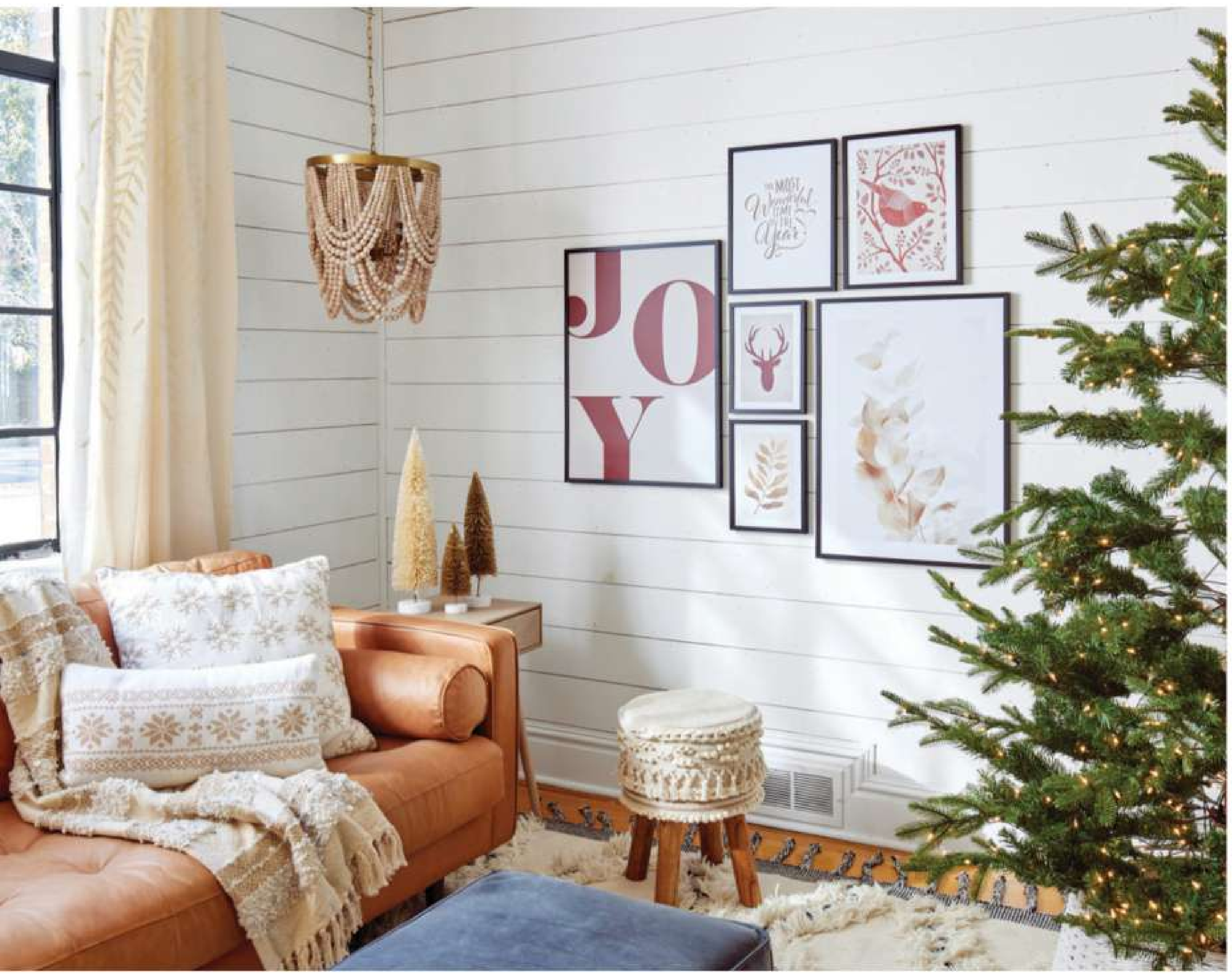
The family's 1947 Gadsden, Alabama, house is always dressed in a cheerful mix of farmhouse finds, both vintage and new, and come Christmas, Charlotte maximizes the merriment. Though she changes the decor from year to year depending on what she feels like, a few mainstays stick around Christmas after Christmas. Trees are a given, for example: There's a tree in every room—sometimes two! Garlands, both fresh and faux, are also seasonal standards; they traipse along tabletops, down the staircase, and across headboards. Vintage Santas (and Santas who only look vintage) make regular appearances as well. And twinkle lights—good glory, the twinkle lights! There might be enough lights in the house to illuminate a small neighborhood.

It's all in the name of wildly celebrating the day that changed her life: Christmas in 2004, certainly, but also the day the Christ child was born. "I came from nothing, and to experience what I have now, to live this life, is just amazing," Charlotte says. "I want it to feel like the whole house is transformed for the season, so every room you go into, you get that festive feel and that joy from the decorations—I want it to be felt everywhere in the house and not just one room." ✳

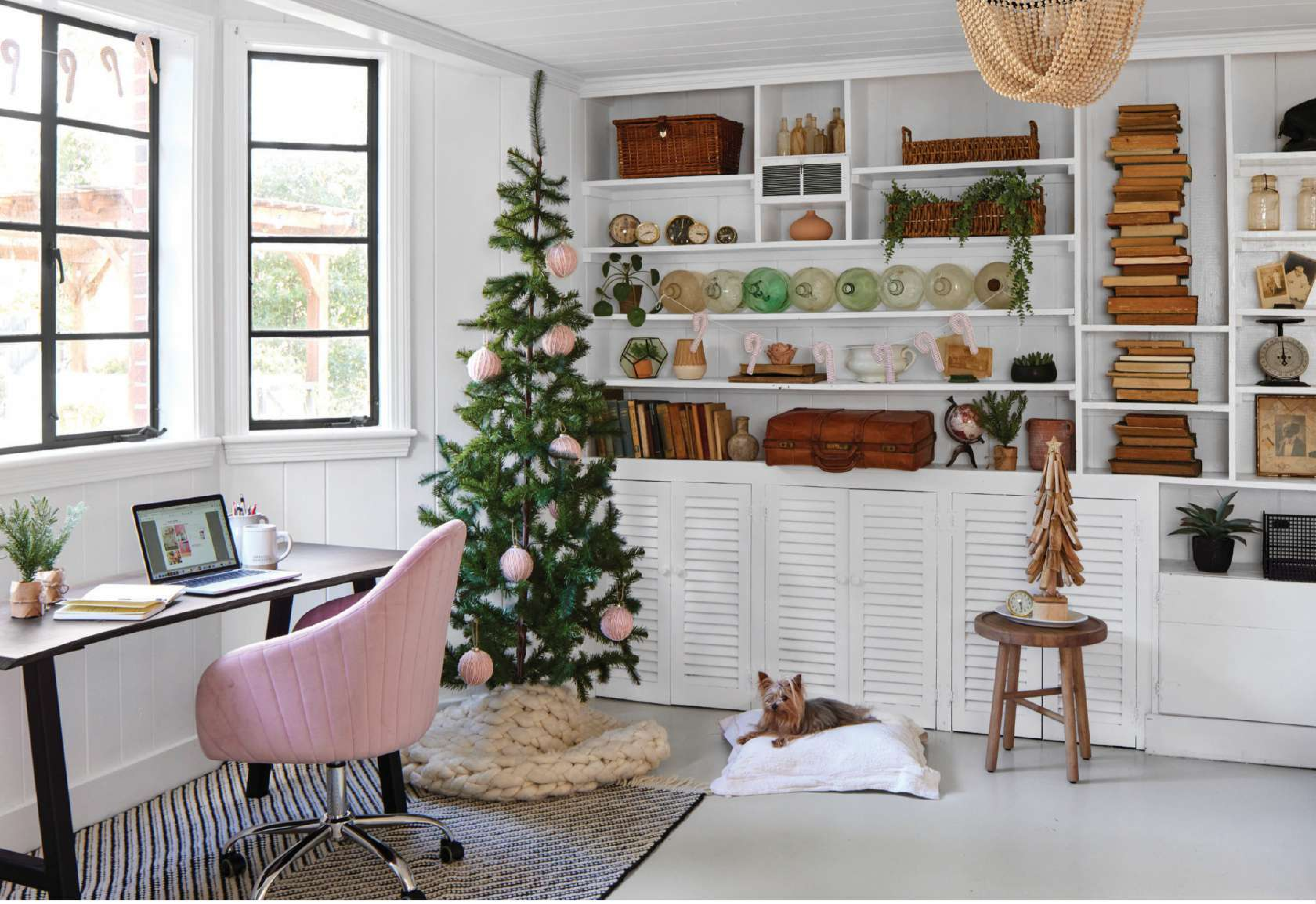
believe
COFFEE
SUGAR

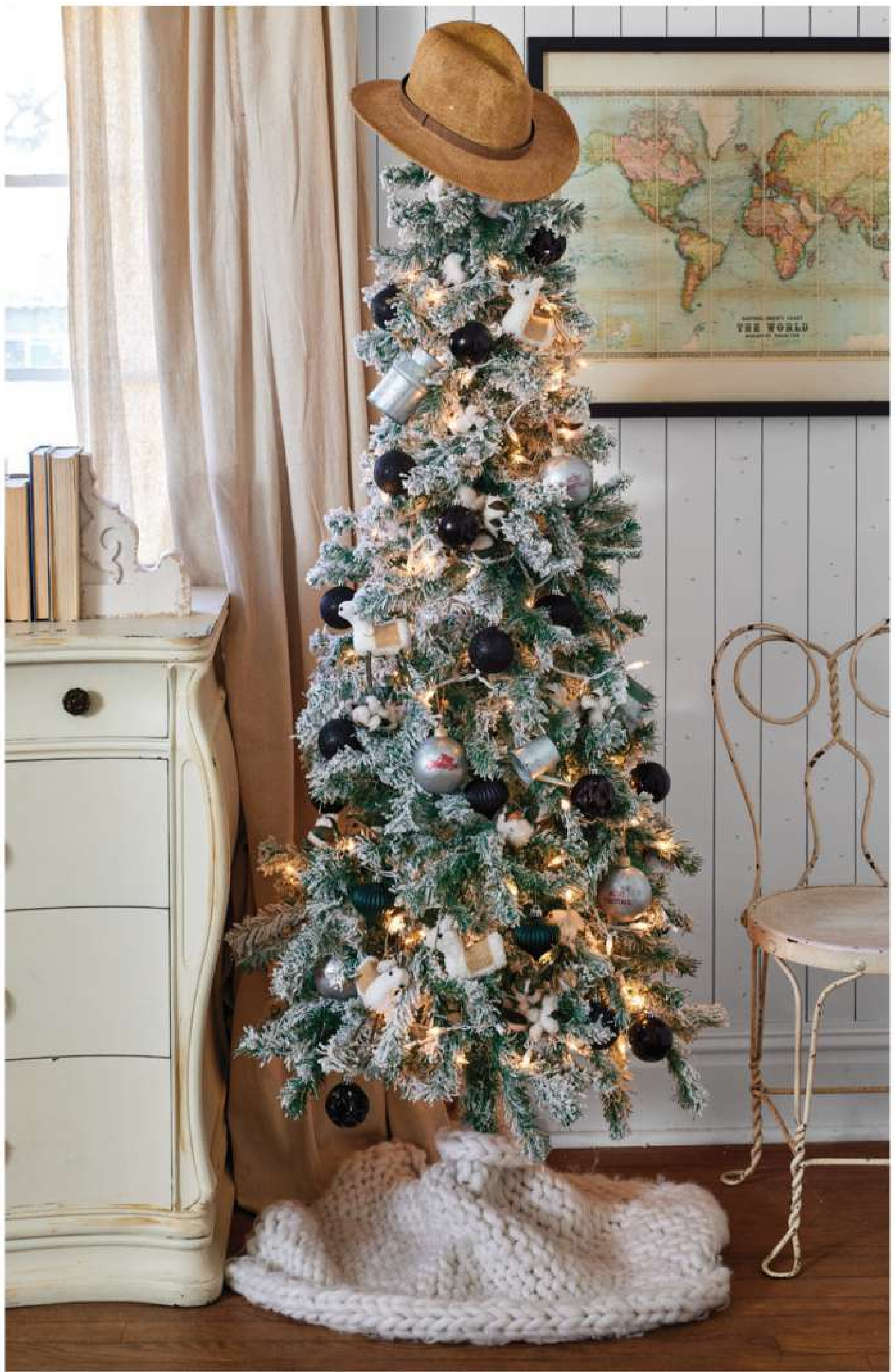
IT'S THE MOST Wonderful time OF THE Year
THE MOST Wonderful TIME OF THE Year
CLIPPER





OPPOSITE The stairway joins the celebratory spirit! A swag of greenery (it's actually one and a half faux-pine garlands tied together), a festive sign, and an old sled polish this small spot. Charlotte makes regular rounds to Hobby Lobby and Kirkland's this time of year but also includes vintage items in her vignettes. She scooped up this sled at a summer sale and squirreled it away for Christmas. **ABOVE** Two trees flank the living room fireplace. Their trappings are mostly golds and browns to suit the space, and of course they're laden with lights. A stand of bottle-brush trees, large wreath, trio of stars, and plaid stockings embellish the fireplace and mantel. **LEFT** For holiday artwork in the living room, Charlotte chose the prints, their sizes, and matching frames online, and she hung them in a tight assembly so they read as a single, sensational piece of seasonal art.





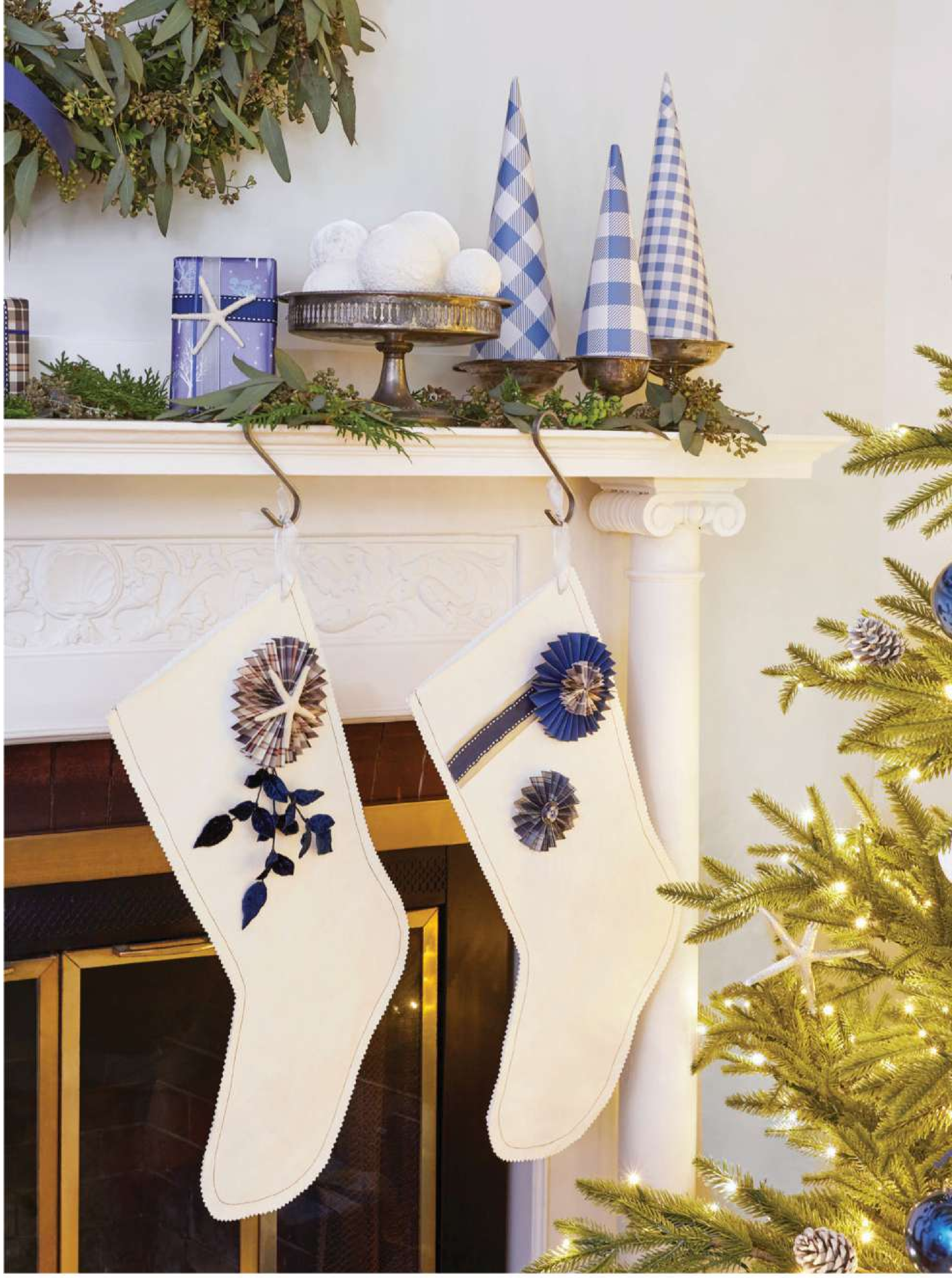
ABOVE An office that's all work and no Christmas just wouldn't play in the Russell household, so Charlotte is sure to tuck greenery onto the shelves, loop candy-cane garland along the glass bottles, and situate two trees in the room. She kept the larger one simple with red-and-white-striped balls and no lights. **LEFT** Another flocked tree, this one in the master bedroom, features trappings both sweet and Southern—just like Charlotte. Ornaments favor farmhouse style, such as galvanized trinkets, old milk jugs, and cotton bolls plucked off cotton stems from crafts stores. The tree is capped by one of Charlotte's hats. "Honestly, I think I just randomly put it up there one day," she says. It's cute enough to stay put. **OPPOSITE** A green garland wrapped in twinkle lights adorns the headboard in the master bedroom, which is outfitted in farmhouse-style finds both new (lamps and luxurious bedding) and vintage (nightstands and framed photos). "I like finding old pieces and thinking about the stories behind each one—how long it's lasted, the houses it's been in, and even the families who had it and the memories they made," Charlotte says.

> “I LIKE THE HOUSE TO BE SO DECORATED THAT IT FEELS LIKE YOU’RE STEPPING INTO A WINTER WONDERLAND.”
>
> —CHARLOTTE EVANS RUSSELL, HOMEOWNER

true BLUE

Unwrap a fresh take that celebrates the classic pairing of blue and white while mixing in lots of silver sparkle for a bounty of Christmas cheer.

Designed by **MATTHEW MEAD**
Photography by **KRITSADA**
Written by **SAMANTHA S. THORPE**



◆

Pretty in Paper

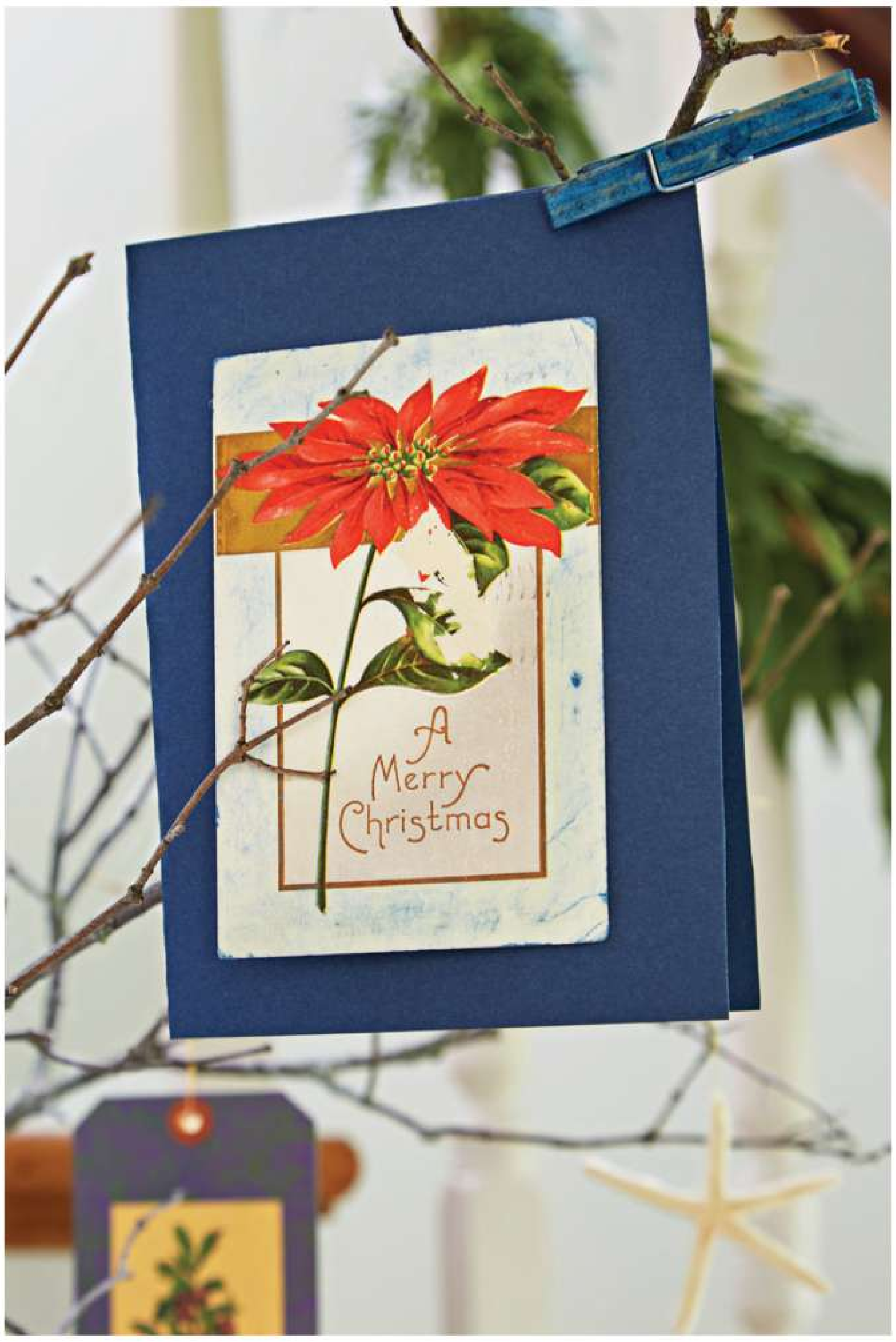
Beneath a bay leaf wreath, hang simple, stylish paper stockings, *opposite* and *right,* all in a row. Using pinking shears and the template at *BHG.com/stockingtemplate*, cut out a classic holiday shape from heavyweight creamy-white gift wrap. Stitch sides together with blue thread. Embellish with festive, glued-on plaid fans, velvet leaves, ribbons, decorative buttons, and more. (See fan, stocking, and wreath how-tos on *pages 94–95*.)

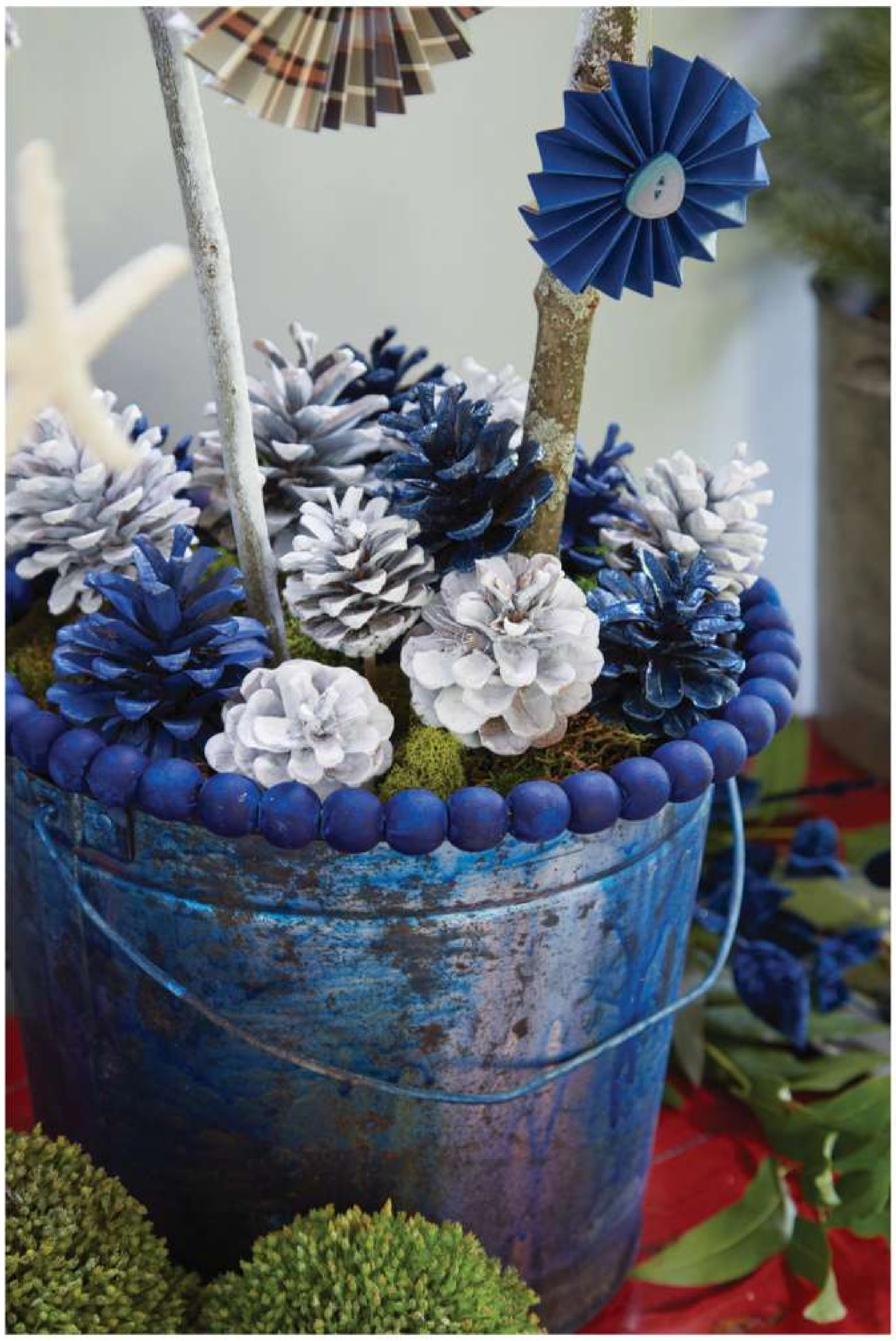
Good Tidings

Have yourself a merry little Christmas with playful ornaments displaying blue-and-white patterns, *below* and *below right*. A cone crafted from gingham scrapbook paper and filled with shredded paper can present surprises like sweet treats and tiny toys. Go round and round with plaid ornaments that showcase shining stars—in this case a starfish dusted with glitter. Punch a hole in the top of the circle, then thread through a ribbon loop for hanging.

PLAY UP THE CHRISTMAS STAR MOTIF BY REPURPOSING ITEMS SUCH AS DELICATE STARFISH, STAR ANISE, OR DRIED STARFLOWERS ADORNED WITH GLITTER.

> “MIDNIGHT BLUE AND SPARKLY WHITE ARE REMINISCENT OF WINTER’S BRIGHT SNOW AND TWINKLING STARS IN THE DARK SKY.”
>
> —MATTHEW MEAD, DESIGNER



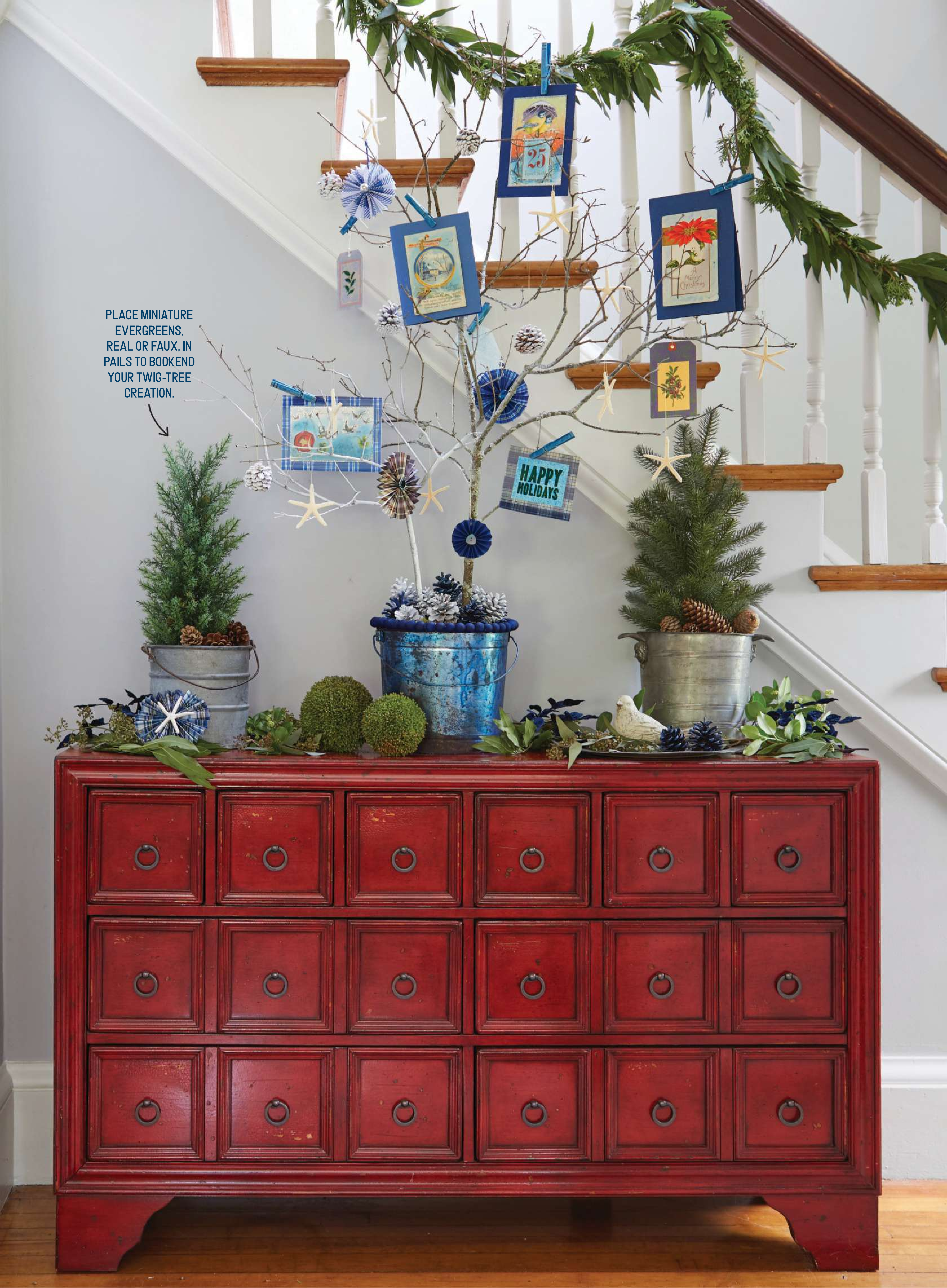


Love and Joy

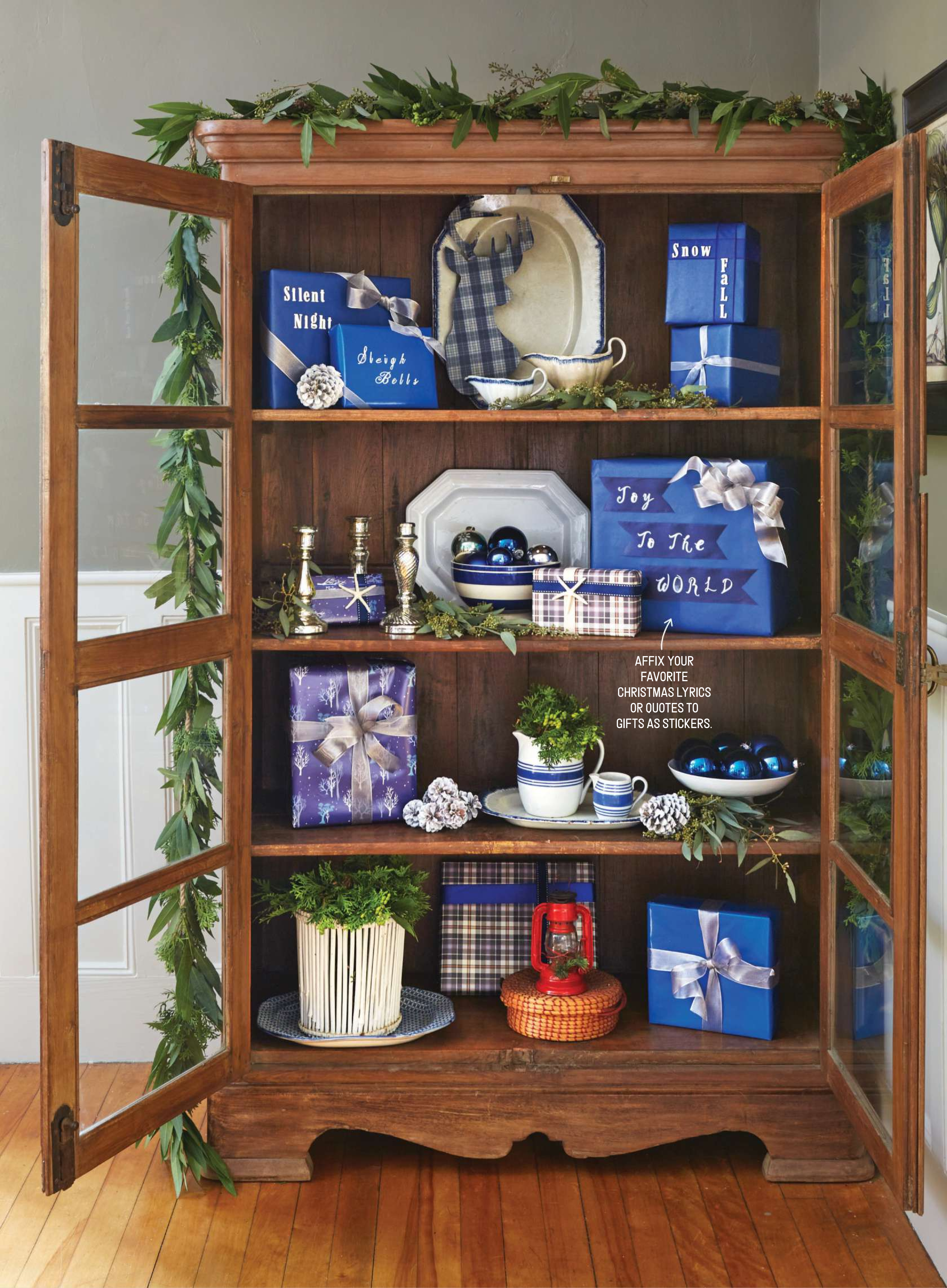
Create an enchanting display by turning vintage holiday postcards, family photos, or Christmas cards from loved ones into ornaments that will bring back happy memories year after year, *above* and *opposite*. Adhere the season’s greetings to blue cardstock using double-stick tape. Attach a string for hanging, or clip with a painted clothespin to a tree branch or a bay leaf garland that drapes a doorway, mantel, buffet table, or stair banister.

Charlie Brown Style

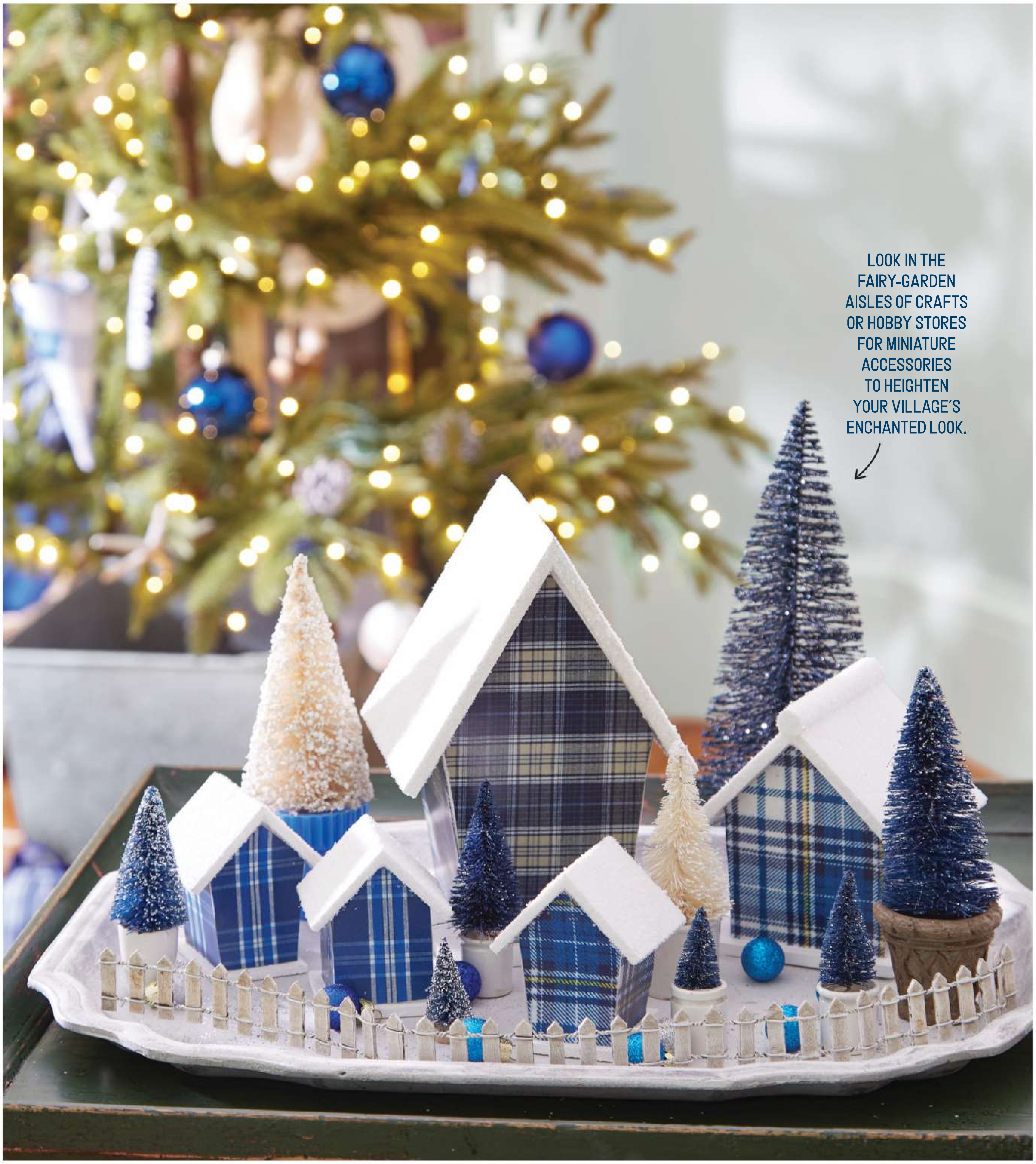
Bring out the good cheer with your own version of Charlie Brown’s tree, *above* and *opposite,* by giving bare branches new purpose with a coat of white paint. Fashion a tree stand from a painted galvanized pail. Hot-glue a blue-painted wood bead garland along the pail’s rim. Surround the tree’s base with painted pinecones (see how-to on *page 94*). Decorate the branches with favorite ornaments, glittery starfish, and holiday cards. Soon you’ll be gathering around your tree to sing “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” just like the Peanuts gang.


HAPPY HOLIDAYS
A Merry Christmas
25

PLACE MINIATURE EVERGREENS, REAL OR FAUX, IN PAILS TO BOOKEND YOUR TWIG-TREE CREATION.


Silent Night
Sleigh Bells
Snow Fall
Joy To The WORLD

AFFIX YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS LYRICS OR QUOTES TO GIFTS AS STICKERS.



LOOK IN THE FAIRY-GARDEN AISLES OF CRAFTS OR HOBBY STORES FOR MINIATURE ACCESSORIES TO HEIGHTEN YOUR VILLAGE'S ENCHANTED LOOK.

Finest Gifts

Make the gift-opening anticipation last even longer by repurposing a cupboard or bookshelf into a special nook to display gifts before the tree is even up, *opposite*. Tie pretty ribbons or glue embellishments to packages. Intermix silver pieces such as platters, bowls filled with shimmery blue balls, and candlesticks in different sizes for extra sparkle. Tuck evergreen branches here and there, and top the furniture piece with a fragrant, long-lasting bay leaf garland for a simple, no-shed touch of greenery (see how-to on *page 95*).

Christmas Island

Fashion your own magical getaway even a snowman would love, *above*, out of small birdhouses adorned with blue plaid facades and topped with glistening snow-covered roofs (see how-to on *page 94*)—all served up on a large tray. Tuck in a mix of bottle-brush trees planted in tiny pots and little blue balls, and skirt the scene with a fairy-size fence. Dust everything with faux snow for a sweet centerpiece or tabletop moment.

“I LIKE CHRISTMAS CRAFTS TO BE SIMPLE—SOMETHING YOU CAN DO IN JUST A FEW STEPS. IF YOU CAN SEE IT, YOU CAN DO IT.” —MATTHEW MEAD

Shining Bright

Set up a get-in-the-holiday-spirit station with a twinkling candle bar, *left*. Assemble a mix of glass cylinders, then gather old blue plaid shirts or find scrapbooking paper in a variety of plaids. Cut the fabric or paper into sections big enough to wrap your cylinders, wrap the circumference of each, and hold in place by applying double-stick tape at the seams. Place cylinders on a console or coffee table and accent with fresh evergreens and bay leaves. Add variety by adorning some candles with wreaths dressed up with glued-on blue balls or berries.

A Little Christmas

Lift everyone's spirits right this very minute by repurposing a vintage medicine cabinet, *above,* to sit on an entry table or a low bookcase. Fill with Christmas favorites including little gifts, glistening bottle-brush trees, pinecones, tiny wreaths, and even a village church. Play up the plaids and touches of blues and whites for a dreamy little Christmas now.

TRUE BLUE
HOW-TO

CRAFT THESE WINTER WONDERS
TO CREATE YOUR OWN BLUE-AND-WHITE
CHRISTMAS DECOR.

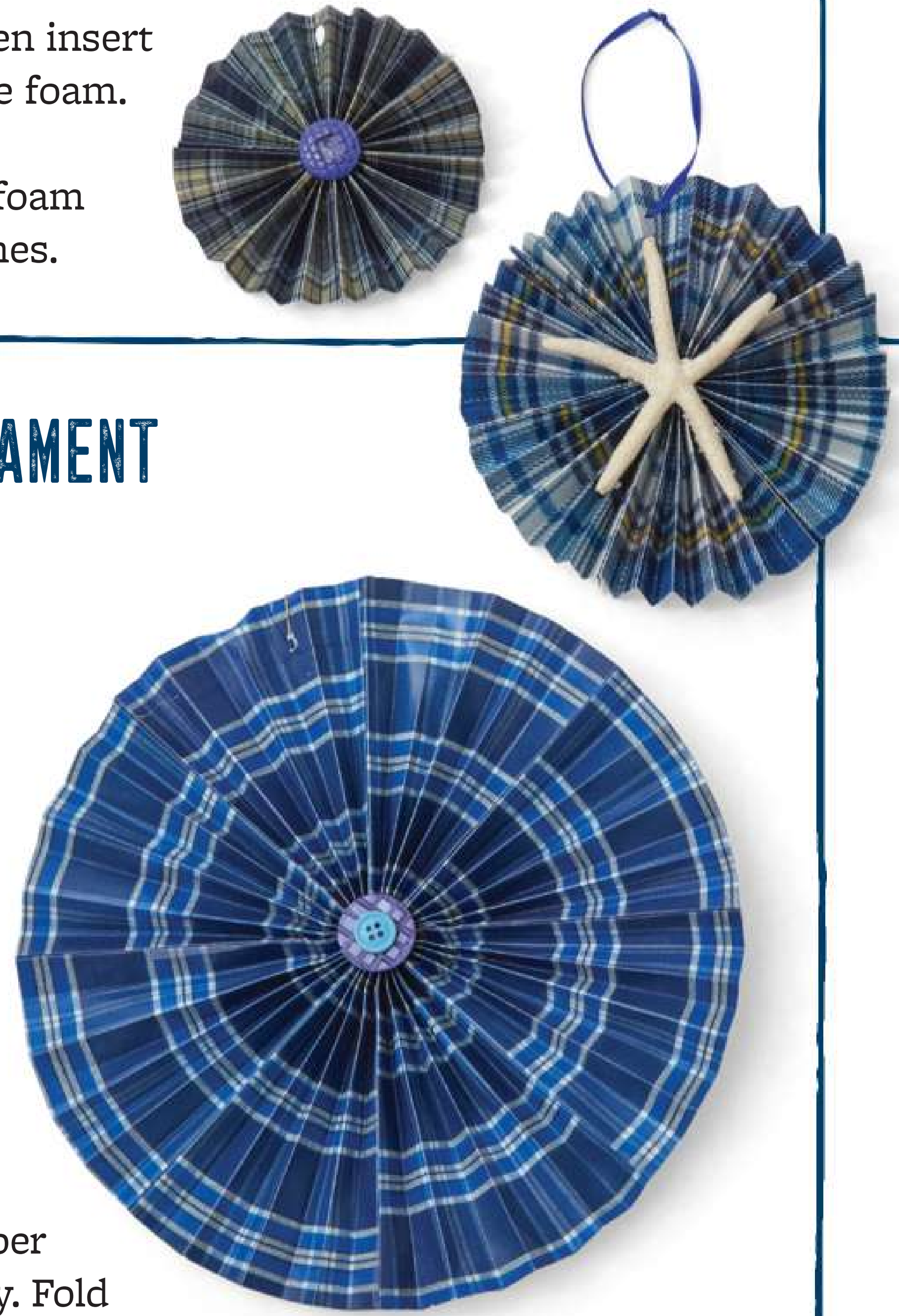
TWIG TREE IN PAIL

MATERIALS

- ☐ Bare branches
- ☐ Spray paint: white
- ☐ Galvanized pail
- ☐ Acrylic paint: blue
- ☐ Sponge brush
- ☐ Floral foam
- ☐ Wood bead garland
- ☐ Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- ☐ Painted pinecones

INSTRUCTIONS

Gather or cut bare branches in various lengths. In a well-ventilated area, coat branches with white spray paint. Let dry. To make a tree stand, paint a galvanized pail with blue acrylic paint thinned with equal parts water and applied with a sponge brush. Cut foam to fit inside the pail, then insert the branches into the foam. Glue bead garland to pail's rim; cover the foam with painted pinecones.



PAPER FAN ORNAMENT

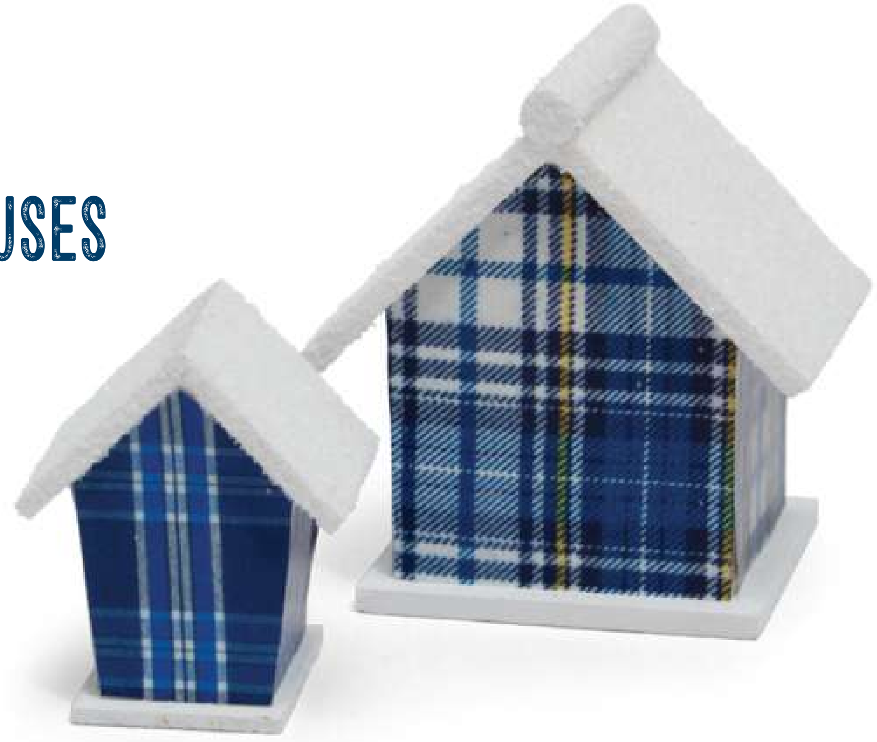
MATERIALS

- ☐ Plaid paper
- ☐ Double-stick tape
- ☐ Hole punch
- ☐ Twine or ribbon
- ☐ Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
- ☐ Buttons, starfish, ribbon, or other embellishments

INSTRUCTIONS

Accordion-fold two pieces of 3×5-inch paper lengthwise, separately. Fold the folded pieces in half, then affix the papers' top folded edges together with double-stick tape. Fan out the shape into a circle, then place double-stick tape to secure the seam. Punch a hole at the top of the circle and thread with twine or ribbon to make a loop to hang the ornament. Hot-glue an embellishment to the center, such as a decorative button, tinsel, ribbons, or glitter-covered starfish.

PLAID VILLAGE HOUSES



MATERIALS

- ☐ Miniature unfinished wood birdhouses
- ☐ Acrylic paint: white
- ☐ Decoupage medium
- ☐ Paintbrush
- ☐ Snow glitter
- ☐ Plaid paper

INSTRUCTIONS

Paint birdhouses with white acrylic paint and let dry. Paint each house's roof with a thin layer of decoupage medium. Sprinkle with snowy glitter and let dry. With a ruler and pencil, cut plaid paper to fit the sides of each house. Paint house with decoupage medium, one side at a time, and adhere paper. Let dry thoroughly.

GLITTERED AND PAINTED PINECONES

MATERIALS

- ☐ Assorted pinecones
- ☐ Spray paint: white, blue, silver, blue sparkle
- ☐ Paintbrush
- ☐ Glue
- ☐ Glitter

INSTRUCTIONS

Spray-paint pinecones desired colors and let dry.
To add glitter, paint pinecone scales with glue and sprinkle with glitter. Let dry before displaying.

BAY LEAF WREATH

MATERIALS

☐ Braided grapevine wreath
☐ Bay leaves
☐ Florists wire
☐ Hot-glue gun and glue sticks
☐ Seeded eucalyptus
☐ Navy wired silk ribbon #9

INSTRUCTIONS

Place braided grapevine wreath form on flat work space. Make about thirty 6-inch-long bundles of fresh bay leaves secured with florists wire. Hot-glue the bundles to the wreath form by working around the circle. Glue seeded eucalyptus leaves to complement the bay leaves and fill any holes. Make a loop with florists wire, attach to the back of the wreath, and embellish with a bow fashioned from wired navy blue ribbon.

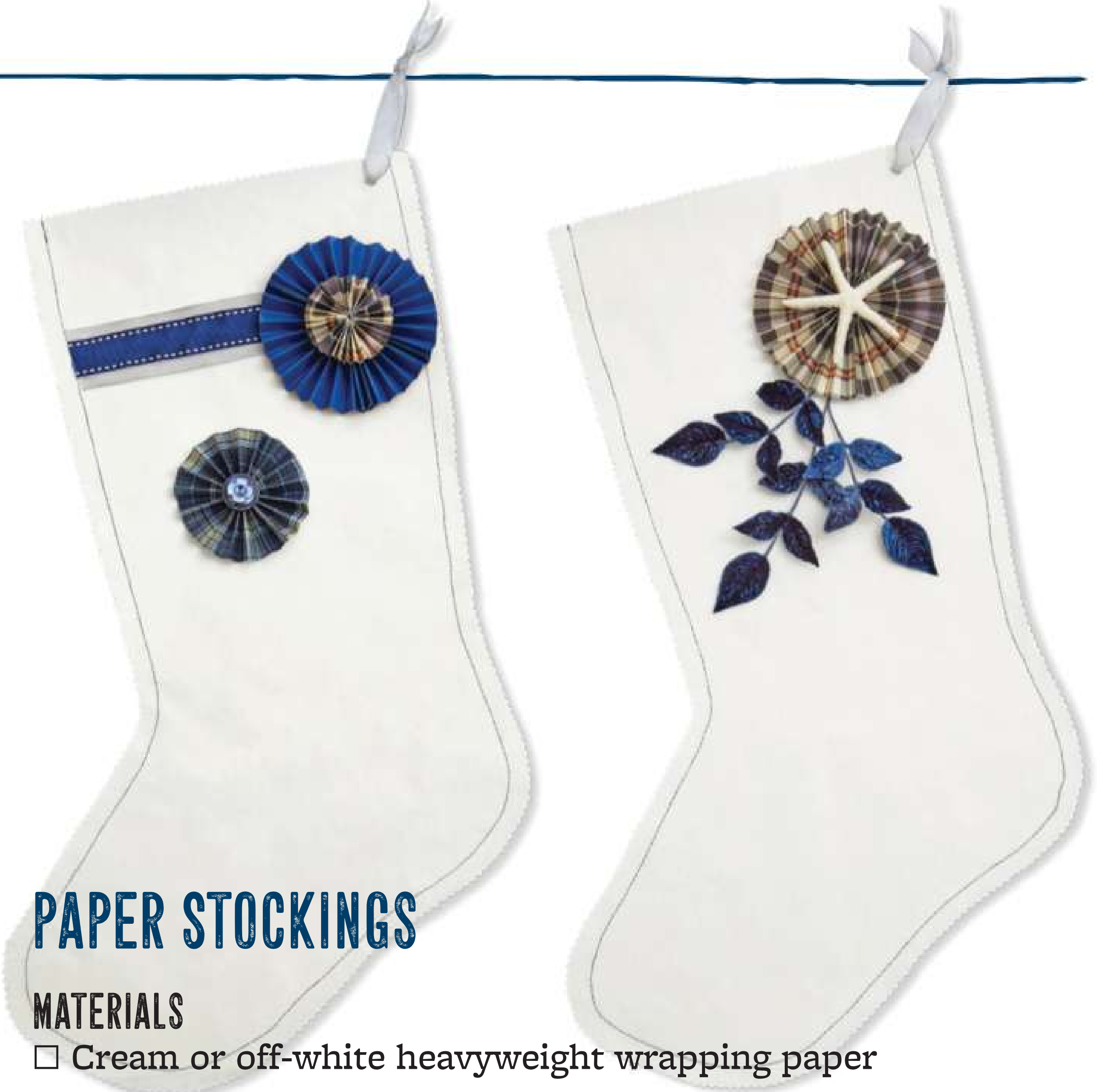
BAY LEAF GARLAND

MATERIALS

☐ Bay leaves
☐ Florists wire
☐ Rope

INSTRUCTIONS

Wrap bay leaves with wire and secure to rope cut to desired length of garland. Overlap the ends of the branches until the rope is covered.



PAPER STOCKINGS

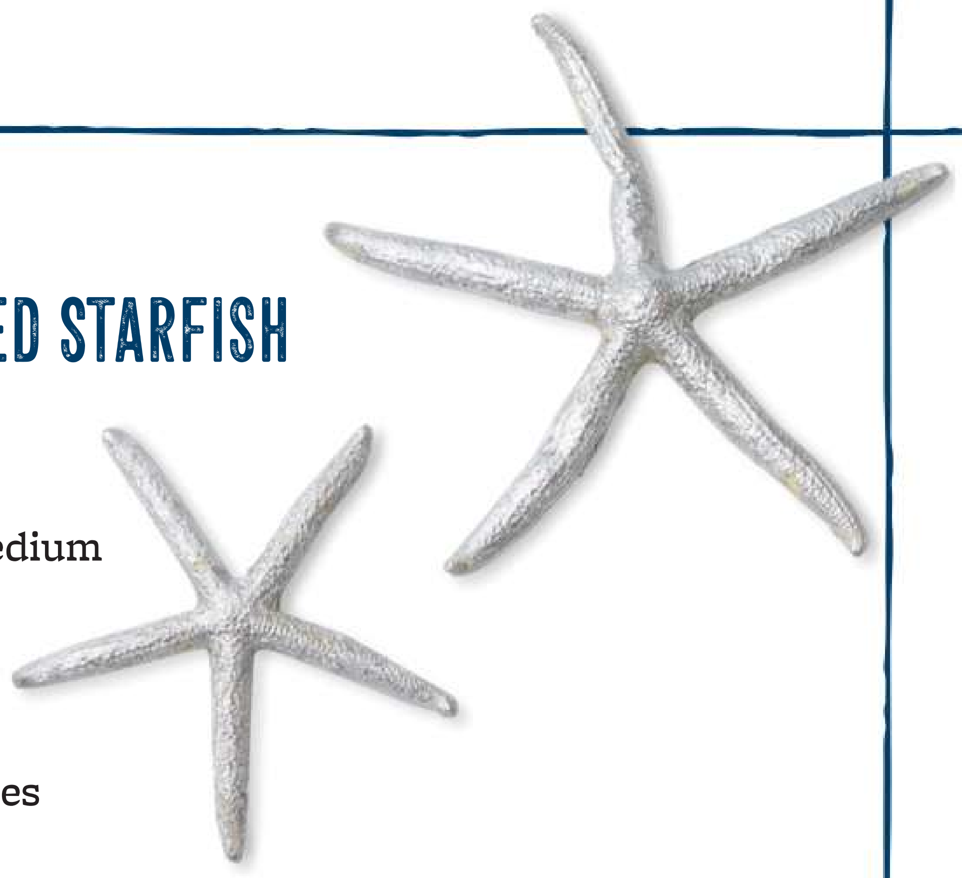
MATERIALS

☐ Cream or off-white heavyweight wrapping paper
☐ Template; download at *BHG.com/stockingtemplate*
☐ Pinking shears
☐ Sewing machine
☐ Navy thread
☐ Hole punch
☐ Ribbon
☐ Embellishments

INSTRUCTIONS

Cut heavyweight wrapping paper to the size of the template with pinking shears. Stitch all sides but the top of the stocking with navy thread. Punch a hole in the desired corner to hang with ribbon. Embellish with items such as velvet leaves, folded paper fans, and glittery starfish.

GLITTER OR FOIL-COVERED STARFISH



MATERIALS

☐ Starfish
☐ Decoupage medium
☐ Paintbrush
☐ Glitter
☐ Glitter snow
☐ Faux snowflakes
☐ Metallic foil
☐ Ribbon
☐ Hot-glue gun and glue sticks

INSTRUCTIONS

Paint decoupage medium onto starfish, then sprinkle liberally with glitter, glitter snow, or tiny faux snowflakes and let dry. For a metallic look, paint starfish with decoupage medium and press foil onto surface using a paintbrush; let dry. Hot-glue to other projects as an embellishment, or hot-glue a loop of ribbon to the back of the starfish to hang it.

PAPER CONE ORNAMENT

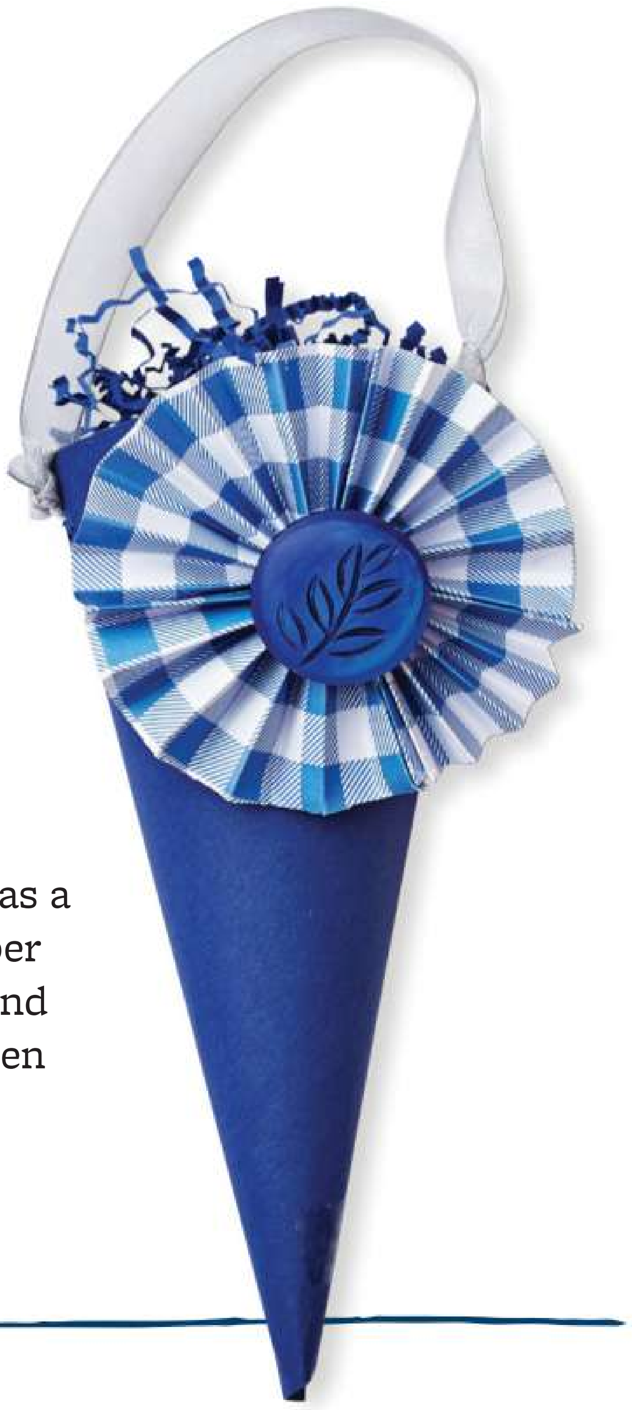
MATERIALS

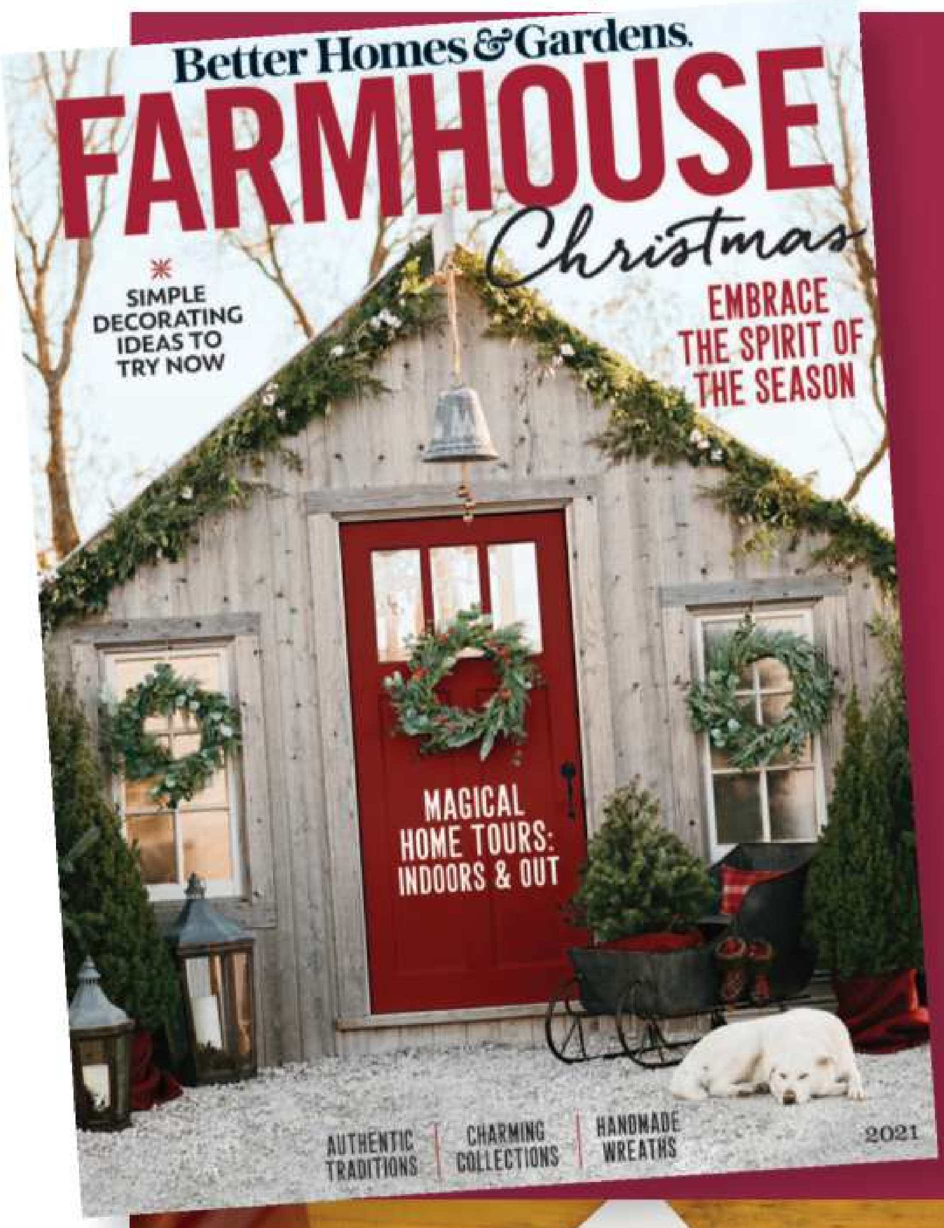
☐ Scrapbook paper
☐ Double-stick tape
☐ Shredded crinkle-cut paper
☐ Ribbon and embellishments

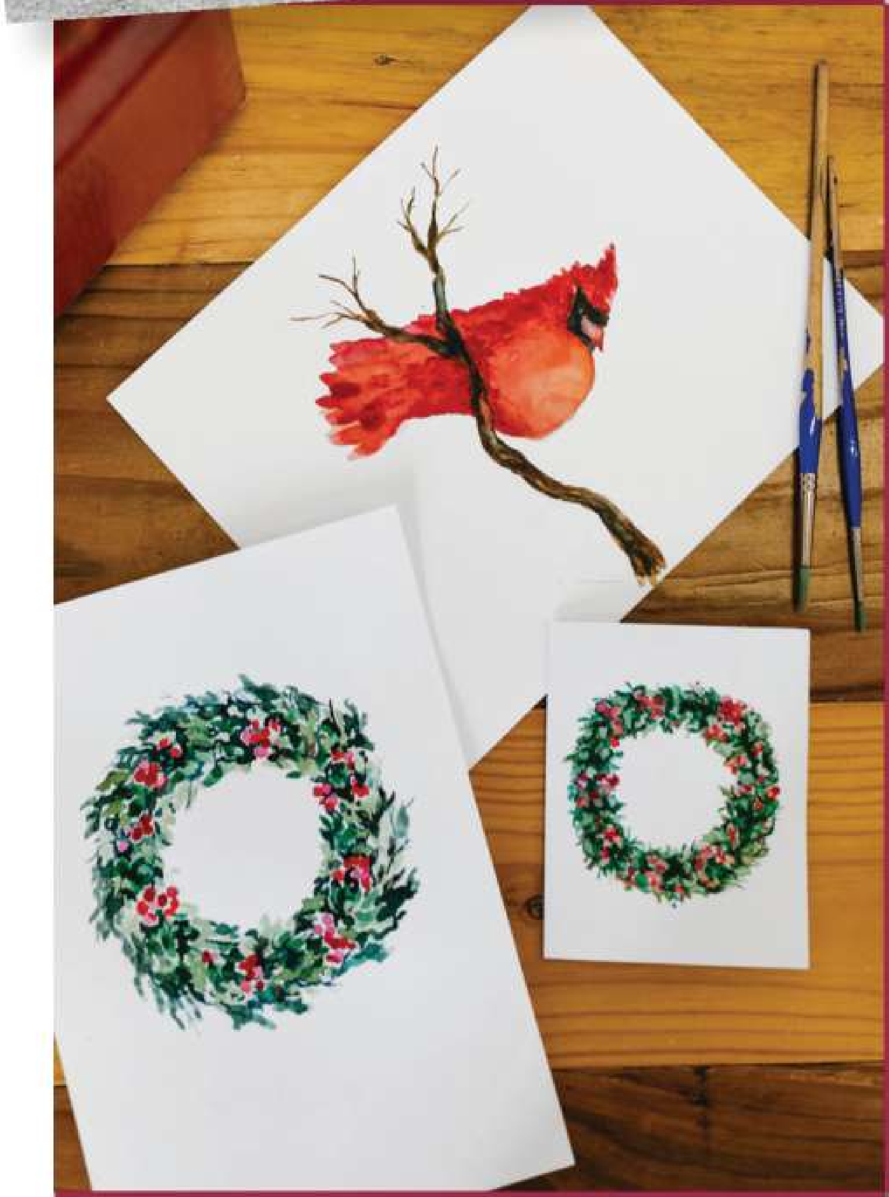
INSTRUCTIONS

Roll scrapbook paper into a cone shape. Secure the seam with double-stick tape. Trim excess paper at top of paper cone. Fill with shredded paper, then tuck in a small surprise such as candy, toys, or even a tiny potted plant.

TIP: If desired, use a foam cone as a template to create uniform paper cones. Simply wrap paper around the foam cone, secure seam, then remove foam.




Better Homes & Gardens.
FARMHOUSE
Christmas
SIMPLE DECORATING IDEAS TO TRY NOW
EMBRACE THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON
MAGICAL HOME TOURS: INDOORS & OUT
AUTHENTIC TRADITIONS
CHARMING COLLECTIONS
HANDMADE WREATHS
2021



ROSE FARM

In Norwalk, Iowa, Rose Farm is a hobby vegetable and flower farm and destination lovingly managed by Karri and Patrick Rose. A charming barn houses The Shoppe at Rose Farm, and the calendar is full of experiences: weekly Farm School sessions, Saturday yoga on the lawn, and Sundays with live music, fancy picnics, and walks through the flower fields. Workshops feature arts, floral design, culinary exploration, and more. Follow @rosefarmstead on Instagram.

Clockwise from above: Artist Christine Hilbert leads a watercolor painting workshop. Luna enjoys a nap outside the greenhouse. The Shoppe is filled with a festive selection of holiday goods. Step inside the greenhouse to tour holiday displays, including this woodsy scene. Shop The Shoppe for one-of-a-kind gifts. Karri Rose (center) with her Rose Farm team.

* * *

Photographer: LAURA WILLS

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BLOCK of the MONTH

2021

AMERICAN PATCHWORK & quilting

Bright New Day

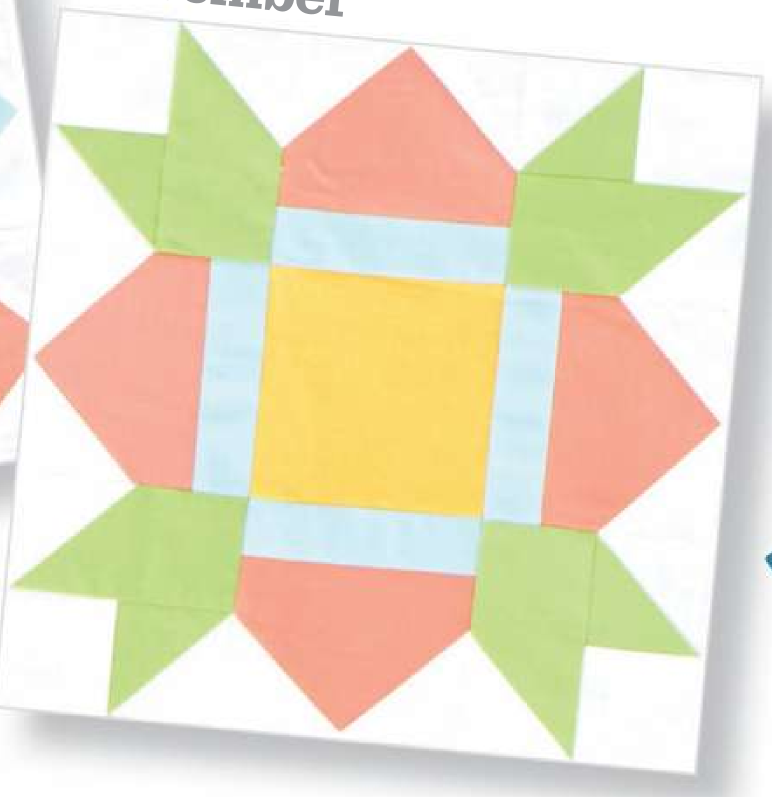
Join *American Patchwork & Quilting* in 2021 for a free block of the month! Each month, we'll release a new block along with a how-to video with tips for sewing the block, plus show the block in alternate colorways.

Bright New Day quilt designed by Jessica Dayon.

Download patterns and view videos here:
AllPeopleQuilt.com/BOM2021

October

November



Upcoming Blocks

Block 9: October 15
Block 10: November 15

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*Based on single ice maker production rates during a 24-hour period, measured per IEC standards, when the ice bin was removed. Results may vary depending on operating conditions. Based on filling 8 oz. glasses.

**Based on single ice maker production rates during a 24-hour period, measured per IEC standard and manufacturer user's manuals, for brands identified in US and Canada TraQline as freestanding French door bottom mount refrigerators.

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